

America, Israel & Britain In Prophecy

“Nations, listen to Me and proclaim My words on the far-off shores. I scattered My people, but I will gather them and guard them as a shepherd guards his flock.... I, the LORD, have spoken.”

—Jeremiah 31:10, 14
Today's English Version

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Table of Contents

Foreword

The Vital Key to End-Time Prophecy 4

Introduction

The Identity Question 7

Chapter One

The Rise & Fall of Ancient Israel 14

Chapter Two

A Great Mystery of History 43

Chapter Three

The Birthright Finally Realized! 52

Chapter Four

What Is Now Prophesied? 70

Conclusion

Epilogue 92

Additional Information

God Is Not Racist! 96

Isaac & Ishmael 99

The Diaspora 101

A Note About “Anglo-Israelism” 103

Divine Intervention During World War II 105

Portrait of a Cruel Conqueror 108

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The Vital Key to End-Time Prophecy

PERHAPS most of us remember reading the biblical story of Joseph. It is one of the most touching and meaningful stories in all the Bible. Joseph's jealous brothers had sold him into slavery. For more than 20 years, it had been assumed by his father Jacob and the rest of his family that Joseph was dead or lost for good. But the God of Abraham had orchestrated a series of remarkable events to make Joseph the ruler, under Pharaoh, over all of Egypt. In this capacity, he had stored up grain during seven plentiful years. And, while he was sharing that grain with starving multitudes during the seven years of famine which followed, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy some.

Finally, Joseph revealed himself to them and a joyous reunion followed! When his brothers went back and told their father, the old patriarch just couldn't believe it. But, after they recounted the details of how Joseph revealed himself to them—and he saw the wagons Joseph had sent him—Jacob said, “It is enough. Joseph my son is alive. I will go and see him before I die” (Gen. 45:28).

Where is Joseph *today*? While it is true that the JEWISH people (from the tribe of JUDAH) were given the “scepter” promise of kingship and the lineage of the Messiah, the Bi-

ble makes it very plain that the tribe of *Joseph* (and NOT the tribe of JUDAH) was to inherit the promised blessings of national greatness and power—“the BIRTHRIGHT was *Joseph’s*” (1 Chron. 5:2). Where are *these* people (from the tribe of *Joseph*) who were to become a great “nation AND a company of nations” (Gen. 35:11), who were to inherit the “gates” of their enemies (Gen. 24:60), and who were to be physically BLESSED above all nations? Did they end up among the so-called “Ten Lost Tribes” of Israel which seemingly *disappeared* from the world scene after being taken into captivity by Assyria around 731 B.C.?

The story of the discovery of modern-day “Joseph” is moving and powerful in its implications. It presents to us the vital KEY that unlocks the real understanding of scores of end-time Bible prophecies! But is it really important that we *understand* such prophecies?

Jesus Himself prophesied of the last days of this world’s present civilization, “For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be” (Mark 13:19). These are *powerful* words coming directly from the Son of God. After describing a number of specific events to occur at the end of this age, Jesus stated in this same prophecy, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will be no means pass away” (v. 31). We all need to wake up, look at what is happening all around us and realize that we are truly living in the prophesied “last days.” Things are not going to continue as they have been. Many of the major countries we live in or are familiar with will literally *cease to exist* within the lifetimes of many of you reading this!

Knowing this, and knowing that God’s true servants have always spoken out to warn His people about major future catastrophes, we who publish this material do NOT want to let you down. We feel inspired and impelled by the Spirit of God to let you know the real MEANING of today’s

news and what prophecy indicates is soon to occur. As the Prophet Amos wrote, “If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it? *Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.* A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?” (Amos 3:6-8).

So as you read this book about what is prophesied to happen to America, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand—and, to a lesser extent, all the other people descended from the nations of Northwest Europe—recognize that this is *exactly* what the true servants of God ought to be talking about at such a time as this.

There have been times in the past when centuries went by with very little in the way of prophesied events taking place. Perhaps even God’s true ministers need not have spent too much time on prophecy back then. *But not now!* For now it is all beginning to come together—and you need to be informed. You need to understand. God warns us, “Scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they *were* from the beginning of creation’” (2 Pet. 3:3-4).

Let’s be sure we are not found among those who scoff at or belittle prophecy. Let us rather be alert to prophecy and to the meaning of present world events. Let us obey Jesus’ inspired command, “WATCH therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). And let’s also be sure that we fully grasp the importance of understanding who the American and British-descended people of the earth are in Bible prophecy—as most end-time prophecies directly concern US (AND our Jewish brothers). For, truly—as this book proves—*Joseph has been found!*

The Identity Question

WHAT, or WHO, was really behind the rise of Britain and America to the very pinnacle of national wealth and power? Many world leaders have stood in awe of the economic and military power which the Anglo-Americans have wielded during the 19th and 20th centuries.

How did U.S. President Ronald Reagan view America? He said, “I have always believed that this anointed land was set apart in an uncommon way, that a *divine plan* placed this continent here between the oceans to be found by people from every corner of the Earth who had a special love of faith and freedom” (*Newsweek*, Dec. 27, 1982, p. 44).

And President Harry S. Truman once said, “I do not think that anyone can study the history of this nation of ours without becoming convinced that *divine providence* has played a part in it. I have the feeling that God has created us and brought us to our present position of power and strength for some great purpose!”

Other national leaders have recognized America’s special role. Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India said, “*Today the U.S. is the top country*, with a high opinion of its global responsibilities. There is no part of the world that does not sense *American influence*. Even societies built on other ideals wish to emulate American stand-

ards in material consumption” (*Time*, Nov. 1, 1976). Mrs. Gandhi also spoke about America’s sheer vastness and natural endowment, the vitality and friendliness of its people, and its immense achievements as a civilization.

Admittedly, America has become much greater than Britain during the last 100 years or so. Nonetheless, Britain was already a great nation for *centuries* before America gained her independence. Furthermore, Britain and the British-descended members of the Commonwealth (Canada, Australia, New Zealand) are, together, much larger in geographic size than the United States. Australia alone is nearly as large as America.

In this eye-opening book, we will examine the *Bible prophecies*, given long ago, which clearly reveal that the Anglo-American people were to become the greatest national powers on earth.

Would the Bible Ignore the Greatest Nations?

Stop and think for a moment. Is it reasonable to believe God would not even mention influential nations like America and Britain in Bible prophecy? Bible prophecy mentions all of the mighty empires which arose in ancient times: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome —and even smaller nations like Arabia, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Libya, Malta and Spain. Would the Word of God utterly neglect to mention the greatest empire in human history—the mighty British Empire of modern times which dominated the world for over two centuries?

Also, one might ask, is it rational to believe God would totally IGNORE mentioning in His Word the richest, most powerful nation this earth has ever seen—the *United States*?

As we will see, God Almighty DOES NOT IGNORE mentioning our great nations. In fact, the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-descended people are mentioned more often in the Bible

than any others. Of course, they are not referred to there by the modern names of America and Britain. To know *who* they are, we must come to understand their ancient origins. What are the ancestral *roots* of the people of America and Britain? Why have they played such a dominant role in the affairs of this world in modern times?

In his famous work, *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, former British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill wrote, “Vast numbers of people [Americans and Britons] on both sides of the Atlantic and throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations have felt a SENSE OF BROTHERHOOD” (vol. 1, p. vii).

And Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher later commented, “I think there was... a bit of anti-Americanism [in Britain]. But the moment you remind people that the world is not likely to be free or safe unless we [Britons] and the U.S. *stick together*, and of the fantastic generosity of the U.S. to Europe, putting it on its feet with the Marshall Plan [following World War II], immediately they get their things in perspective. People [in Britain] are not anti-American really. IT IS REALLY LIKE BEING MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY” (*Time*, June 20, 1988).

Who ARE these people? French President Valéry Giscard d’Estaing said this of the Americans: “You have begun to question your identity... you have ceased to believe in your destiny” (*Time*, May 24, 1976). Just what is the *identity* and *destiny* of these people?

Searching the Scriptures for National Identity

The *British* people have traditionally looked to the Holy Bible in an attempt to define their role in the world. Winston Churchill, arguing *against* the idea that Moses and the Exodus were merely legendary, remarked, “We may be sure that all these things happened just as they are set out according to Holy Writ; we may believe that they happened

to PEOPLE NOT SO VERY DIFFERENT FROM OURSELVES” (*Thoughts and Adventures*).

However, national identification with the Old and New Testaments has nowhere been stronger than among the *American* people. A 1982 *Newsweek* article, “How the Bible Made America,” stated, “Now historians are discovering that THE BIBLE, PERHAPS EVEN MORE THAN THE CONSTITUTION, IS OUR FOUNDING DOCUMENT: the source of the [belief in]... the United States as a *special, sacred nation*, a people called by God to establish a model society, a beacon to the world” (Kenneth Woodward and David Gates, Dec. 27, p. 44).

Why would modern English-speaking people base their culture on the ancient book of a Middle Eastern people? The same article explains, “ONLY ONE OTHER NATION HAS EVER LOOKED TO THE BIBLE TO FIND A WARRANT FOR ITS VERY EXISTENCE: ISRAEL, WHOSE EARLY HISTORY IS ACTUALLY WRITTEN IN IT. The foundation of this [belief]... was laid by the New England Puritans who literally ‘discovered America in the Bible’” (p. 46).

Conrad Cherry, in his 1971 book, *God’s New Israel: Religious Interpretations of American Destiny*, states, “They [the Puritans] believed that, like Israel of old, they had been singled out by God to be an EXAMPLE for the nations (especially for England)” (p. 27).

Seeing the rise of the United States as a replay of the story of ancient Israel became a major theme in Colonial America: “In 1776 Benjamin Franklin proposed to the Continental Congress that the great seal of the United States bear the image of Moses leading the Israelites across the Red Sea. Thomas Jefferson also urged an Exodus image: he wanted the new nation represented by an Israel led through the wilderness by the Biblical pillar of cloud and fire” (Woodward and Gates, p. 47).

In assuming the U.S. presidency for the second time, Jefferson employed similar imagery: “I SHALL NEED, TOO,

THE FAVOR OF THAT BEING IN WHOSE HANDS WE ARE, WHO LED OUR FOREFATHERS, AS ISRAEL OF OLD, FROM THEIR NATIVE LAND AND PLANTED THEM IN A COUNTRY FLOWING WITH ALL THE NECESSITIES AND COMFORTS OF LIFE” (Second Inaugural Address, Mar. 4, 1805).

In 1783, Connecticut Governor Trumbull asked Ezra Stiles, President of Yale University, to preach the state’s election sermon. Stiles began with the Old Testament narrative of the Sinai covenant “as introductory to a discourse upon the political welfare of *God’s American Israel*, and as allusively prophetic of the future prosperity and splendor of the United States.... THIS AMERICA JOSEPH (NOW SEPARATED FROM HIS BRETHREN)... has already risen to an acknowledged sovereignty among the republics and kingdoms of the world” (“The United States Elevated to Glory and Honor,” reprinted in *God’s New Israel*, p. 83).

President Stiles posed this significant question: “MAY WE NOT SEE THAT WE [AMERICANS] ARE THE OBJECT WHICH THE HOLY GHOST HAD IN VIEW FOUR THOUSAND YEARS AGO WHEN HE INSPIRED THE VENERABLE PATRIARCH [JACOB, LATER RENAMED ISRAEL] WITH THE VISION RESPECTING HIS POSTERITY?” Amazing!

There is just *one* nation whose biblically prophesied *greatness* is resembled by what has been actually experienced by only the English-speaking people. That nation is, as you might have guessed, none other than *Israel!* Yet the modern *state* of Israel is a far cry from the fabulously wealthy and prestigious superpower nations that God prophesied end-time Israel to become. How can it be that the British and American people seem to have inherited the blessings of national greatness promised only to Israel? This publication will reveal the astonishing answer!

Does It Really Matter?

Does it even matter who “Israel” is today? Yes! The knowledge of Israel’s modern identity is proof that the Bible is true—that it is, in fact, the inspired, infallible Word of God—and that God can be trusted completely.

Additionally, this wonderful understanding will bring the panorama of end-time prophecy into focus, as the vast majority of Bible prophecy revolves around “Israel” in the end time. So knowing *who Israel is today* is the MAJOR KEY to unlocking most of the prophecies given in God’s Word. Thus, the identity question really IS important!

Furthermore, just as God foretold national “prosperity and splendor” for Israel, He also prophesied what would happen to that nation as punishment for continued disobedience. The erosion of its moral base and the promotion of godless values would result in unprecedented calamity!

God addressed many prophecies of divine punishment specifically to Israel—*His direct chastisement upon them* for flagrantly disobeying His commands. For this reason, it is absolutely vital that whomever God means by “Israel” in His Word must be made aware of their identity and WARNED of coming destruction!

In this regard, we are like the Prophet Ezekiel, who was told by God, “I have made you a WATCHMAN for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and *warn them for Me*. When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul” (Ezek. 33:7-9).

We who know that God’s punishment will soon fall on the people of modern “Israel” have a *duty* to warn them in brotherly love. This “watchman” responsibility has been

called the “Ezekiel Warning.” You will hear that warning sounded with greater clarity near the end of this book. However, in order to convince today’s “Israelites” that God’s prophecies in this regard concern *them*, we must first PROVE to them *who* they are!

But some might wonder, “What on earth does Israel have to do with America and Britain in prophecy?” Simply this: To understand what the Bible reveals about our Anglo-American nations, it is vital to understand what the Bible reveals about the people of Israel.

Suffice it to say for now that God has been working out a plan through the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the democracies of Northwest Europe that dovetails quite remarkably with His plan for Israel. In fact, by the time you reach the conclusion of this book, you will, no doubt, marvel at what a huge *understatement* that is!

(Much of the information contained in this book is from an earlier work published years ago by a now defunct organization.)

The Rise & Fall of Ancient Israel

TO TRULY understand the subject of America and Britain in prophecy, it is first imperative that we understand what God reveals about His chosen people of Israel. Have the modern Israelites experienced the fulfillment of prophecies regarding them?

To learn who the *modern* people of Israel are, we must examine the fascinating facts concerning the history of the *ancient* people of Israel. In doing so, we need to realize that, of all nations on earth, God Almighty plainly says He has only “known” one nation—Israel! “Hear this word that the LORD has spoken [concerning]... the whole family [of Israel] which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, ‘YOU ONLY HAVE I KNOWN OF ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH’” (Amos 3:1-2).

This does *not* mean that God does not love all people of all nations (John 3:16), but there is only one people, on the *national level*, with whom God has ever had a close, hands-on, engaged relationship. God told Israel, “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the earth” (Deut. 7:6).

But notice what He says next: “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and BECAUSE

HE WOULD KEEP THE OATH WHICH HE SWORE TO YOUR FATHERS” (Deut. 7:7-8). Who *were* these “fathers”? What was so special about them?

National Roots

Mankind has basically rejected God and His way since the Garden of Eden. About 2,000 years from that time, only three men had accepted God’s way of life, according to the biblical record—Abel, Enoch and Noah (Heb. 11). The rest of mankind lived in rebellion against God. His solution was to bring a Great Flood upon the earth and start over with just eight people—Noah, his wife and their three sons with their wives (Gen. 6).

Noah’s three sons became the fathers of the three great families or “races” of mankind. After the Deluge, God instructed these three families to disperse into those regions of the earth to which He had previously assigned them (Gen. 10-11). Yet, within a few generations men were *once again* not looking to God, but to their own devices—striving against God to build the huge Tower of Babel (Babylon) and a world-class city to prevent themselves from being scattered abroad over the face of the earth (Gen. 11:1-9).

For that rebellion at the Tower of Babel, the Almighty rebuked them sharply and confused their languages, forcing the people to separate and migrate out into the areas which He had assigned each of them as their inheritance (Deut. 32:8; Jer. 27:5; Acts 17:26).

The Family of Abraham

In the course of time, God Almighty would choose a unique man named Abram (later renamed “Abraham” by God) and his “seed” to form a new nation by which He would preserve the true religion and carry out certain aspects of His divine plan upon this earth.

Abraham's illustrious ancestors are listed in Genesis 11:10-32. Nine generations before Abraham was Noah's son Shem, who, generally speaking, was father of the white or Caucasian race. Thus Abraham's descendants are predominantly white. The term "Semite" is derived from Shem's name. The Hebrew language is classified as "Semitic," and racial hatred of Jews is called "anti-Semitism."

Next in this lineage was Shem's son, Arphaxad. He was father of the Chaldeans—which makes Abraham and his descendants part of them. This makes sense since Abraham came from "Ur of the Chaldeans" (Gen. 11:31). Next in line was Salah and then EBER (OR HEBER), WHOSE DESCENDANTS ARE CALLED HEBREWS. So Abraham was a "Hebrew." But, because all of Eber's descendants didn't come through Abraham, there are more "Hebrews" than just his family!

Next in Abraham's lineage was Eber's son Peleg. It was in his lifetime that the Tower of Babel incident occurred—when God assigned Noah's descendants their allotted portions of the earth (Gen. 10:25). After Peleg was Reu and then Serug, Abraham's great-grandfather. Next came his grandfather Nahor and, finally, his father Terah.

And "Terah begot Abram [later named Abraham], Nahor, and Haran" (Gen. 11:27). "And Terah took his son Abram and grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai [later named Sarah], his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans [in Lower Mesopotamia] to go to the land of *Canaan*; and they came to Haran and dwelt there.... and Terah died in Haran" (Gen. 11:31-32). The city of Haran was located between the Tigris and Euphrates in Upper Mesopotamia.

Why were Terah, his son Abram and their clan trekking their way to the "land of Canaan"? Genesis 12 explains: "Now the LORD had said to Abram [while his family was still in Ur]: 'Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I

WILL MAKE YOU A GREAT NATION.... AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED” (Gen. 12: 1-3).

Here was a tremendous promise of God—conditional upon Abram’s obedience. This was a real test! Ur was a prosperous city. Abram was asked by God to leave it and go to a backward land far, far from civilization. Could his descendants really become a “great nation” there?

Moreover, by this time, the world had again strayed a long way from God. Society was so deeply entrenched in paganism that the true religion was almost unheard of anymore. Yet what was Abram’s response to God’s command? “So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him” (Gen. 12:4). There was no grumbling or arguing. Abram simply obeyed God. That’s the unique character he had.

Promises of Ethnic Lineage & Grace

It is fascinating to realize the nature of the promises God made to Abraham. Many have missed the fact that God’s promises were *dual*. To reconcile the fact that the Jews have never become a “great nation” in the world, some claim that this reference is to the *Church* only. It is true that to inherit the spiritual promises of God, everyone must become a descendant of Abraham spiritually (Gal. 3:29).

It is also true that the Church is called a “royal priesthood, a holy nation” (1 Pet. 2:9). However, as we will see, this promise of a “great nation” was later expanded to include “many nations.” That certainly cannot refer to the Church. This is speaking of Abraham’s physical descendants—**ETHNIC LINEAGE!**

Many have recognized that when God said, “In you all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,” this was primarily a *spiritual* promise (although there *is* a physical application even to this, as succeeding chapters will reveal). God later

told Abraham: “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 22:18). The singular “seed” here refers to Jesus Christ—the Son of God who would come in the flesh as a descendant of Abraham to offer spiritual salvation to the entire world—**GRACE!**

Through Abram’s descendants would come these tremendous *dual* blessings. God told Abram, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘*So shall your descendants be.*’ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness” (Gen. 22:5-6).

At Sarai’s prompting, Abram soon had a son, Ishmael, by Sarai’s Egyptian handmaid Hagar. But this is not how God intended to bless Abram.

When Abram was 99 years old, God appeared to him and said, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will *multiply you exceedingly*.... and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram [Heb. “Exalted Father”], but your name shall be Abraham [Heb. “Father of a Multitude”]; for I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you” (Gen. 17:1-2, 4-6).

Numerous prophecies reveal that Abraham’s descendants would become “many nations”! Those prophecies could *never* have been fulfilled in the Church or in the *two* small kingdoms of Israel and Judah, which we will examine later. “Many” can’t possibly be interpreted to mean *only two!* So was all of this to be through Ishmael then?

Notice what God did next. He changed Sarai’s name to Sarah (Heb. “Princess”) and said, “And I will bless her and also *give you a son by her*; then I will bless her, and she shall be a MOTHER OF NATIONS; KINGS OF PEOPLES [PLURAL!] shall be from her” (Gen. 17:16).

The main promises of their descendants becoming many nations were *not* to go through Ishmael. Abraham was happy about Sarah, but he still hoped that his firstborn son Ishmael—now 13 years old—would be his heir: “And Abraham said to God, ‘Oh that Ishmael might live before You!’” (Gen. 17:18).

But God answered, “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I WILL MAKE HIM A GREAT NATION. BUT MY COVENANT I WILL ESTABLISH WITH ISAAC, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year” (Gen. 17:19-21).

The tremendous promises of national blessings to Abraham were, at first, conditioned upon his complete obedience to God. Would Abraham persevere in obeying God’s commands?

When Abraham later proved his total obedience to God, the Lord rewarded him by making the conditional promises to him *unconditional*! “By Myself I HAVE SWORN, says the LORD, *because you have done this thing*, and have not withheld your son, your only son, in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I WILL MULTIPLY YOUR DESCENDANTS AS THE STARS OF THE HEAVEN AND AS THE SAND WHICH IS ON THE SEASHORE; AND YOUR DESCENDANTS [“RACE” FENTON TRANSLATION] SHALL POSSESS THE *gate* OF THEIR ENEMIES [promise of ETHNIC LINEAGE]. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed [promise of GRACE], because you have obeyed My voice” (Gen. 22:16-18).

God had now SWORN—it would happen no matter what! Abraham’s physical descendants would be innumerable—compared to counting stars in the sky or grains of

sand on the seashore. And the *singular* “seed,” Jesus Christ, would come through his lineage. But what is a “gate”? *Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary* (10th ed.) defines a gate as “a means of entrance or exit” or as a strategic “gateway.”

The word “gate” in the national blessing means a strategic geographic passageway which controls the movement of trade and military forces for a certain region—such as an important mountain pass or sea passage. Modern examples of land and sea gates would be the Khyber Pass, the Panama Canal and the Strait of Gibraltar.

Promises to Isaac’s Seed

After Abraham’s death, the unconditional promises of his descendants becoming “many nations” passed to his son Isaac. These incredible promises would devolve upon Isaac’s descendants—not Ishmael’s. Isaac later married Rebekah. Notice the blessing her family gave her as she left her homeland to go and marry Isaac: “OUR SISTER, MAY YOU BECOME THE MOTHER OF THOUSANDS OF TEN THOUSANDS [“MANY MILLIONS!” LB]; AND MAY YOUR DESCENDANTS POSSESS THE *gates* OF THOSE WHO HATE THEM” (Gen. 24:60).

Here, again, this was prophetic. Isaac’s descendants would become many millions and possess the strategic gateways of their enemies. The Jews have NEVER fulfilled this—and it certainly can’t refer to the Church.

Neither can these verses refer to the Jews in the coming Millennium of Christ’s rule—because, after their regathering in the Promised Land, it would take until well into that future age for them to overspread the world and take possession of such gates. And, by that time, there will be NO enemy nations (Isa. 2:2-4). So this prophecy can ONLY be fulfilled in this present evil age of strife and war which will soon come to an end. Therefore, we must look for a group

of nations—all descended from Abraham—that has possessed the vital land and sea gates of the world. WE MUST DO THIS OR REJECT THE BIBLE AS FRAUDULENT. There is simply no way around it.

The Birthright for a Bowl of Stew!

Let's look again at the dual nature of the promises to Abraham. The promises of *ethnic lineage* and the future availability of God's *grace* were unconditional. However, as the New Testament makes clear, actually receiving God's grace by an individual was *conditional* upon repentance—turning away from breaking God's law. The promise of *ethnic lineage*, however, required nothing from Abraham's descendants. Their behavior might have affected the TIMING that God chose for giving them the promised national blessings—but God had *bound Himself* to give those blessings no matter what. Thus, the promises of *lineage* now belonged to the descendants of Isaac by RIGHT. Such a right is termed a BIRTHRIGHT.

The 1992 *American Heritage Dictionary* defines birthright as “a right, possession, or privilege that is one's due by birth.” It can also mean “a special privilege accorded a firstborn.” Notice this note in *The New Open Bible* (NKJV) from Thomas Nelson Publishers: “The term *birthright* appears several times in the Bible. The word refers to the inheritance rights of the firstborn son in a Hebrew family in Old Testament times. The property of a father was normally divided among his sons at his death. But a larger amount, usually a double portion, went to the oldest son (Deut. 21:17), who assumed care of his mother and unmarried sisters” (p. 35).

Normally, the birthright was continued through the firstborn son. But there are instances where God *intervened* and dictated otherwise. This happened with Isaac. Ishmael had been Abraham's firstborn son. Yet God saw this son as

the product of a lack of faith—an attempt to bring about God’s promises through human effort. Abraham’s firstborn *lawful* son, in God’s eyes, was Isaac. “And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac” (Gen. 25:5).

God later told Isaac, “I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants ALL THESE LANDS [“COUNTRIES” KJV—NOT JUST CANAAN!]; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws” (Gen. 26:3-5). We must always bear in mind that Abraham’s descendants were NOT blessed because of racial superiority, but because of Abraham’s obedience.

The birthright blessings were to be passed on to the descendants of Isaac. He and Rebekah had twin boys. At their birth, “the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name *Esau* [Heb. “Hairy”]. Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau’s heel; so his name was called *Jacob* [Heb. “Supplanter” or “Heel-Grabber”] (Gen. 25:25-26). God had prophesied that the birthright wouldn’t go to the firstborn, Esau, in this case—but to the younger son Jacob (Gen. 25:23).

But Jacob would live up to his name by trying to supplant Esau prematurely. One day Esau came in tired and hungry, desiring some stew Jacob was eating. Jacob sold him the stew in exchange for Esau’s birthright (Gen. 25:27-34).

God’s Promises to Jacob

Year’s later, Jacob even deceived his own father, Isaac, to get the *blessings* that accompanied the birthright. So Isaac mistakenly blessed Jacob: “See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed. SO

GOD GIVE THEE OF THE DEW OF HEAVEN, AND OF THE FAT PLACES [“RICH SOIL” MOFFATT TRANSLATION] OF THE EARTH, AND PLENTY OF CORN [“GRAIN” NKJV] AND WINE. LET PEOPLES SERVE THEE, AND NATIONS BOW DOWN TO THEE. Be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother’s sons bow down to thee. Cursed be everyone that curseth thee, and blessed be everyone that blesseth thee” (Gen. 27:27-29 Holy Scriptures, Jewish Publication Society).

These are purely *physical* promises of national prosperity. Nothing stated here concerns *spiritual* salvation. Yet what incredible promises these are: ideal rainfall on the choicest agricultural lands on earth to yield an overabundance of produce; administrating over the affairs of other nations; enemies brought low and allies prospering. Jacob was promised all this for his descendants!

Jacob, despite his character problems, prized and valued the awesome divine blessings promised to Abraham. Esau did not (Gen. 25:34; Heb. 12:16-17).

God later confirmed the birthright promises to Jacob in a dream: “I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie [Canaan] I will give you and your descendants. ALSO YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH; YOU SHALL SPREAD ABROAD [COLONIZE] TO THE WEST AND THE EAST, TO THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 28:13-14). Jacob’s descendants would be great colonizers—spreading themselves around the whole world!

Jacob married two sisters, Leah and Rachel, and by them and their two handmaids, fathered 12 sons and a daughter. And, after he repented of his deceit, God changed his name: “YOUR NAME SHALL NO LONGER BE CALLED JACOB, BUT ISRAEL [Heb. “Prevailer with God”]; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed” (Gen. 32:28).

So here is the origin of the name “Israel”! Through Israel’s 12 sons, God would build His chosen nation. Each of Israel’s sons would be the progenitor of an individual *tribe* of people. For instance, Jacob’s son Judah was the father of the *tribe* of Judah. His descendants, as we will see in more detail later, were called “Jews.” YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THIS BECAUSE MANY ARE CONFUSED ABOUT IT. ETHNIC JEWS ARE ONLY *one tribe* OF ISRAEL. AND THERE ARE 11 *other* TRIBES OF ISRAEL *besides* THEM. This, then, is the origin of the TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

Later, God confirmed Jacob’s new name and the fantastic promises: “And God said to him, ‘Your name is Jacob; your name shall *not* be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name.’ So He called his name Israel. Also God said to him: ‘I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; A NATION AND A COMPANY OF NATIONS SHALL PROCEED FROM YOU, AND KINGS SHALL COME FROM YOUR BODY’” (Gen. 35:10-11). Here again is the promise of a line of “kings,” but there is something else here we haven’t seen before—the promise of “*a* [single] nation and a *company* [“group” Moffatt] of nations”!

The Ferrar Fenton translation says, “a Nation and an Assembly of Nations.” The New International Version renders it, “a nation and a community of nations.” A “company,” “group,” “assembly” or “community” of nations. This could *not* be something like the United Nations because its member nations are not all of the same family. No, this would have to be something similar to the Arab League or the British-descended Commonwealth nations. When did such a “company of nations” ever form in ancient Israel? Never. When has it happened among the Jewish people? It has not. We must, then, look elsewhere.

“The Birthright Belonged to Joseph”

The birthright would next have gone to Jacob's firstborn son by Leah—Reuben. But Reuben committed incest with Bilhah, his own father's concubine (Gen. 35:22; 49:3-4). Therefore, the birthright fell to the firstborn of Rachel—Jacob's 11th son, Joseph. First Chronicles 5:1-2 explains: "The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel. 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 [Reuben] is not enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright; though JUDAH BECAME PROMINENT among his brothers and a ruler ["THE CHIEF RULER" KJV] CAME FROM HIM, yet the *birthright belonged to Joseph*" (NRSV).

Something remarkable happened here! God decided to *split the promises of ethnic lineage and grace between two different tribes!* JUDAH would receive the kingly line, referred to as "the SCEPTER" (Gen. 49:10). A scepter is defined as "a staff held by a sovereign as an emblem of authority" or "ruling power or authority; sovereignty" (*American Heritage Dictionary*). King David would come from this line and from him would descend the "one seed," Jesus Christ, offering salvation to the world.

No wonder Jesus later said, "Salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22), and Paul wrote of "salvation for everyone who believes, *for the Jew first* and also for the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). The promise of GRACE was to come down through JUDAH. But the *birthright* promises of national blessings—*ethnic lineage*—would come through *Joseph!* GET THIS FIXED IN YOUR MIND. IT IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT KEY TO UNDERSTANDING YOUR BIBLE!

Joseph was Jacob's favorite son. Joseph's brothers saw this favoritism—displayed in such ways as the famous "coat of many colors" (Gen. 37:3 KJV)—and hated him. One day Joseph told them of a powerful dream he had: "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright; and indeed your sheaves

stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.’ And his brothers said to him ‘*Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?*’ So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words” (Gen. 37:7-8).

He then had a second dream: “‘This time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.’ So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, ‘What is this dream that you have dreamed? *Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?*’ And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind” (Gen. 37:9-11). As time would prove, these dreams were prophetic—not only foretelling what would happen to Joseph himself, but also what would happen to his descendants far into the future.

What did happen to Joseph himself is amazing. His brothers sold him into slavery and convinced their father Jacob that he’d been killed and eaten by a wild animal. Jacob, of course, was devastated. Joseph was sold into Egypt and spent years in slavery and then in prison. Yet God miraculously worked it out so that the Egyptian Pharaoh made Joseph the prime minister of all Egypt! “You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you” (Gen. 41:40).

Joseph, a gifted administrator over this great Gentile nation—as his future descendants would also be—directed the project of storing food through “seven years of great plenty” (Gen. 41:29) to make it through “seven years of famine” (Gen. 41:30). During this famine, Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt to buy food but did not recognize him. However, after Joseph put them through a test, he finally revealed his identity. Then there was weeping with tears of joy.

How prophetic! The identity of the descendants of Joseph is generally hidden right now. But it will not be that way for long! Also, notice what Joseph told his brothers: “But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.... to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and TO SAVE YOUR LIVES BY A GREAT DELIVERANCE” (Gen. 45:5, 7). How true this would be, also, of Joseph’s descendants in the dark days of Nazi Germany—as we will later see!

Joseph asked his brothers to go and get their father and bring him down to Egypt. The Pharaoh was going to give them the choicest lands to dwell in. So the other sons of Israel returned to Canaan to get him. “‘Joseph is alive,’ they shouted to him. ‘And he is ruler over all the land of Egypt!’ But Jacob’s heart was like a stone; he couldn’t take it in. But when they had given him Joseph’s messages, and when he saw the wagons filled with food that Joseph had sent him, his spirit revived. And he said, ‘It must be true! Joseph my son is alive! I will go and see him before I die’” (Gen. 45:26-28 Living Bible). When Jacob and Joseph at last met, “they fell into each other’s arms and wept a long while” (Gen. 46:29 LB). What a deeply emotional experience this was for the family of Israel—just as it will be again in the very near future when the identity of Joseph’s descendants is revealed!

Why Jacob (Israel) Crossed His Arms

Pharaoh had given an Egyptian woman, Asenath—daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On—as a wife to Joseph (Gen. 41:45). She had borne him two sons, *Manasseh* (Heb. “Forgetting” his previous troubles) and *Ephraim* (Heb. “Fruitful”). Thus the two boys were half-Egyptian.

When Joseph heard that Jacob was sick, he took his two sons and hurried to his dying father’s bedside. Jacob man-

aged to sit up to receive them. He told Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession’” (Gen. 48:3-4). Notice that Jacob is speaking to Joseph of *only the birthright promises* of national greatness here. The promise of kings and of the one “seed,” Christ, were for Judah.

“And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours” (Gen. 48:5-6). So Jacob *adopted* these two boys as his own sons in order to pass on the birthright to them. So, instead of being only their uncle, Judah was now also their brother! And notice this: Jacob switched the order of the boys’ names. In verse 1, the order was “Manasseh and Ephraim”—Manasseh being the firstborn.

But here was another instance of divine intervention. Because Jacob’s sight had grown dim with age, he asked Joseph to bring the two boys right up to him. “And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel’s left hand [the lesser position], and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel’s right hand [the greater position]” (Gen. 48:13).

But look at what happened next: “Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim’s head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh’s head, *guiding his hands knowingly*, for Manasseh was the firstborn” (Gen. 48:14). To do this, JACOB HAD TO HAVE ACTUALLY CROSSED HIS ARMS. This was clearly intentional!

“And he blessed Joseph, and said: ‘God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked... BLESS THE LADS [BOTH OF THEM—IT WAS A JOINT BLESSING]; LET MY NAME BE NAMED UPON THEM, AND THE NAME OF MY FATHERS

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC; AND LET THEM GROW INTO A MULTITUDE IN THE MIDST OF THE EARTH” (Gen. 48:15-16).

The name “Israel,” then was to be stamped on Ephraim and Manasseh together. That is why most Bible prophecies about “Israel”—and even “Isaac” mentioned here—do NOT primarily refer to the Jews or any *other* tribe for that matter. IN END-TIME PROPHECY, “ISRAEL” REFERS MAINLY TO THE DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH THROUGH EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH! This is an incredible fact that few are aware of. Ephraim and Manasseh would jointly become the promised multitude—the *nation and company of nations* (Gen. 35:11). Some might try to argue that Judah would be the single nation and the other tribes would form the company of nations. But that just can’t be. This birthright blessing was simply not meant for any tribes other than Ephraim and Manasseh.

At this point, Joseph noticed that Jacob had his arms crossed and wanted his father to switch them. “And Joseph said to his father, ‘Not so, my father, for this one [Manasseh] is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.’ But his father refused and said, ‘I know, my son, I know. HE ALSO SHALL BECOME A PEOPLE [A NATION], AND HE ALSO SHALL BE GREAT; BUT TRULY HIS YOUNGER BROTHER SHALL BE GREATER THAN HE, AND HIS DESCENDANTS SHALL BECOME A MULTITUDE [“GROUP” NIV] OF NATIONS.’

“So he blessed them that day, saying, ‘By you Israel will bless, saying, “May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!”’ AND THUS HE SET EPHRAIM BEFORE MANASSEH” (Gen. 48:18-20).

This blessing was NOT a joint one like before. It was broken down individually. Now we see that Manasseh would be the *great nation* and that out of Ephraim would come the *company of nations!* Israel told Joseph, “I have given to you one portion above your brothers” (Gen. 48:22). Indeed. The double portion belonged to Joseph.

Prophecies for “the Last Days”

Then Jacob called all of his sons to him: “Gather together, that I may tell you WHAT SHALL BEFALL YOU IN THE LAST DAYS” (Gen. 49:1). This, certainly, is not some stuffy, outdated scriptural passage. This chapter is about “the last days”! “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a law-giver from between his feet, until Shiloh [a reference to the Messiah] comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people” (Gen. 49:10). Again, the kingly line and the Savior would come through Judah.

But look at the descendants of Joseph, through Ephraim and Manasseh: “JOSEPH IS A FRUITFUL BOUGH, A FRUITFUL BOUGH BY A WELL; HIS BRANCHES RUN OVER THE WALL [their national boundaries]” (Gen. 49:22). In other words, they would grow so numerous as to become great colonizers and expansionists. “The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him. *But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob*” (Gen. 49:23-24). Ephraim and Manasseh would have great military strength and would be victorious through miraculous divine intervention.

Continuing, “the Almighty... will bless you with BLESSINGS OF HEAVEN ABOVE [outstanding climates], BLESSINGS OF THE DEEP THAT LIES BENEATH [such as great petroleum wealth], BLESSINGS OF THE BREASTS AND OF THE WOMB [great population growth]. The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who

was separate from his brothers” (Gen. 49:25-26). What an incredible prophecy!

Let’s take one more glimpse at the birthright that Joseph would receive. Deuteronomy 33 affords us an awesome preview of what was to come upon Israel. The Prophet Moses blessed the various tribes of Israel before his death. Look at what he revealed about Joseph: “Blessed of the LORD is his land, *with the precious things of heaven, with the dew, and the deep lying beneath*” (v. 13). What nation and company of nations are blessed with the best climates and possess vast fossil fuel resources? “...*with the precious fruits of the sun... the precious produce of the months*” (v. 14). What nations consistently reap the most bountiful agricultural harvests? “...*with the best things of the ancient mountains, with the precious things of the everlasting hills, with the precious things of the earth and its fullness*” (v. 15-16). What people have mined the greatest wealth in precious metals and minerals? “...*and the favor of Him who dwelt in the [burning] bush*”—God (v. 16). Which nations have seen definite instances of divine intervention in their undertakings?

“Let the blessing come ‘on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.’ His glory is like a firstborn bull, and HIS HORNS [SYMBOLIC OF MILITARY POWER] LIKE THE HORNS OF THE WILD OX; TOGETHER WITH THEM HE SHALL PUSH THE PEOPLES [“HE WILL CONQUER NATIONS” FENTON] TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH; they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh” (v. 16-17).

So if we want to find the birthright nations of “Israel” today, we must look for the modern descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh. They will have become a great single nation in a special brotherhood with a great company (or community) of nations. They will possess vast natural resources and the choicest agricultural regions on earth. They will have overrun their national boundaries and colonized

abroad—over much of the world. They will have been a global military superpower alliance. They will have been exceedingly rich and affluent above all other nations. They will have ruled over the affairs of many other nations. And they will have been far greater and larger than the Arab empire at its dizzying height. Have there been such nations in the world? Many will argue that these promises were fulfilled in the ancient Kingdom of Israel. But is that so?

From Mount Sinai to the United Kingdom

The story of Moses and Israel's deliverance from cruel Egyptian bondage is well known. After the Eternal led the Israelites through the Red Sea (about 1490 B.C.), He took them to the foot of Mount Sinai and gave them His Ten Commandments along with His statutes and judgments. Israel then entered into a COVENANT with God to keep His laws and became His national "wife." But Israel repeatedly rebelled against her "Husband" and, as a result, had to wait 40 years to enter the Promised Land.

Once in the Promised Land, the tribes of Israel received their territorial inheritances—except for Levi which, instead, served as the nation's priesthood (Num. 18:20-32).

Then, for *several hundred years*, God gave His covenant people a long line of judges to serve as righteous leaders to the nation and to teach them His ways. The Lord worked directly through these divinely appointed judges. That being so, during this period, Israel was a theocracy with God as Ruler.

But, still, Israel constantly rebelled and finally wanted a human king—like other nations—to replace Samuel, the last of the judges. This was really a rejection of *God* as Israel's "King" (1 Sam. 8:7, 12:12).

The first divinely anointed king to rule over all Israel (around 1095-1055 B.C.—all dates of kings are reigns throughout) was Saul (Heb. "Asked For"—Israel had

“asked for” a human king). A young man from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Sam. 12), Saul at first had a self-effacing, humble attitude. But that soon gave way to *pride, self-will and lack of faith!* Samuel finally told Saul, “Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king” (1 Sam. 15:23).

God then chose David (Heb. “Beloved”) to become Israel’s next king (about 1055-1015 B.C.) and, because of his God-fearing attitude, the Lord promised him an everlasting dynasty (2 Sam. 7:11-16)! What was God’s overall opinion of David as king? “I have found David the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL DO ALL MY WILL” (Acts 13:22). Even though David made serious mistakes, he was, on the whole, a man after God’s own heart—that is, he *thought* like God.

David’s deep reverence and love for God enabled him to serve the Lord with all his might (2 Sam. 6:14)! As a result of David wholeheartedly following God, the Eternal made an *unconditional promise* that his descendants would *forever sit upon his throne* somewhere on this earth—ruling over Israel (1 Chron. 28:1-10; Ps. 89:3-37). When King David died, Israel lost her greatest, most righteous human king. “So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon [Heb. “Peaceable”] his son reigned in his place [around 1015-975 B.C.]” (1 Chron. 29:28).

Like Saul, Solomon began his reign in humility. Initially, he proved to be a wise and understanding ruler. He built God’s Temple in Jerusalem—perhaps the most magnificent building ever erected.

Unfortunately, later in his reign, King Solomon initiated Israel’s downward slide into *idolatry* and debauchery. He took to himself “700 wives... and 300 concubines” (1 Kings 11:3). But worst of all, Solomon’s harem included a number of foreign women, whom he had married for political purposes (v. 1). These women clung to their idolatrous

worship, creating quite a problem. “For it was so, when Solomon was old, that HIS WIVES TURNED HIS HEART AFTER OTHER GODS; and his heart was *not* loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David” (v. 4).

For Solomon’s betrayal, God informed him, “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; but I will tear it out of the hand of your son [Rehoboam]. However I will not tear away the *whole kingdom*, but I will give one tribe [of Israel in addition to Judah—i.e. Benjamin] to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen” (1 Kings 11:11-13).

Shortly before King Solomon’s death, God sent the Prophet Ahijah, the Shilonite, to meet an Ephraimite named Jeroboam. “Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into *twelve pieces*” (1 Kings 11:30). God showed Jeroboam that, of all Twelve Tribes of Israel, “ten tribes” (v. 35)—represented by ten of the twelve strips of clothing—would be ruled by him as king (v. 31-33).

A Kingdom Divided!

Israel had grown weary of Solomon’s burdensome *taxes*. In the time of Samuel, God had warned the Israelites that if they chose human kings, they would surely be *oppressed* by them: “And you will *cry out* in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day” (1 Sam. 8:18).

Shortly after King Solomon’s death, his son, Rehoboam, “went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king” (1 Kings 12:1). The clan chiefs of Israel had sent a message to King Rehoboam, asking him to *light-*

en their taxes, and then they would gladly serve him (v. 3-5).

Unfortunately, the young, arrogant king rejected the counsel of the “old men” in favor of the advice of the “young men” (v. 6-15). Rehoboam haughtily told Israel’s clan chieftains assembled at Shechem, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will *add* to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!” (v. 14).

“Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, ‘What portion have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!’ So Israel [the northern Ten Tribes] departed to their tents” (v. 16). Some have mistakenly thought that King Rehoboam and the Jews *seceded* from Israel. But that is not so. Rather the Ten Tribes seceded from the dynasty of David, determined to establish their own dynasty of kings: “So Israel has been in *rebellion* against the house of David to this day” (v. 19).

Rehoboam’s hard-nosed reply stirred the Ten Tribes to install Jeroboam as their king (v. 20). FROM THAT DAY ONWARD, THE NORTHERN KINGDOM (OF TEN TRIBES) WOULD BE CALLED THE “HOUSE OF ISRAEL,” WHILE THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM WOULD BE KNOWN AS THE “HOUSE OF JUDAH,” WHICH INCLUDED THE TRIBES OF JUDAH AND BENJAMIN AS WELL AS SOME OF THE LEVITES (v. 21).

“Modern Jews thus consider themselves to be descendants of the tribes of JUDAH and BENJAMIN or are classed as LEVITES” (“Benjamin,” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, vol. 2, 1991). This is a vital point that many fail to grasp today! Jews and Israelites are not necessarily synonymous terms. As time went on, there would be intermittent, bitter rivalry and outright warfare between the two *rival* kingdoms of Judah and Israel: “And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days” (2 Chron. 12:15).

An Apostate Nation

The Prophet Ahijah had explained that Solomon's *blatant idolatry* was the reason Jeroboam was now ruling over the northern Ten Tribes. Ahijah told Jeroboam that God would build him an everlasting dynasty *if* he would obey the Lord's laws and follow in His ways (1 Kings 11:38). God's promise was remarkably similar to what He had said to David. But despite Jeroboam's knowledge of the dire consequences of Solomon's apostasy, as soon as he was made king over the Ten Tribes of Israel, he immediately set up *two golden calves*, one in Dan and another in Bethel (12:28-29).

He instituted this system of false worship to prevent the Israelites from going to Jerusalem to worship—where they might realign with Judah and the Davidic line (12:26-27). The Kingdom of Israel would *never recover* from the infectious idolatry which Jeroboam started.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel lasted only about 253 years, from around 975-722 B.C. During that 253-year period, the Ten Tribes were ruled by 19 kings representing nine different dynasties! The kings of the Ten Tribes reigned, on average, for only about 13 years! Of the Northern Kingdom's 19 kings—none of whom returned to truly worship God—eight were assassinated, usually by the next king. One even committed suicide.

A later king, Omri, proved to be one of the Northern Kingdom of Israel's most capable kings. Though he reigned only 12 years (around 925-913 B.C.), Omri exercised political savvy. He moved Israel's capital from Tirzah to a far more defensible position, the "hill of Samaria," where he proceeded to build his new capital. (Samaria would remain Israel's proud, unconquered capital city until its utter destruction by the Assyrians in about 722 B.C.)

Omri became widely known throughout the ancient Near East during his lifetime. Numerous cuneiform inscriptions reveal that the Assyrians were well acquainted with him and his dynasty, and called the Kingdom of Israel “MAT-BIT-HUMRIA” (the land of the house of Omri). Israel was still referred to as such by the Assyrians in their cuneiform inscriptions more than 200 years after he reigned. The famous *Moabite Stone* mentions that “Omri, king of Israel” oppressed the Moabites during his reign.

After Omri’s death, his son Ahab reigned in his place (around 913-893 B.C.) along with his wicked queen Jezebel. This evil couple promoted even greater idolatry in Israel. During their reign, the menacing cloud of Assyria’s rising power began to appear on the horizon. Unfortunately for Israel and Judah, they were situated on the *strategic land bridge* of the Middle East’s Fertile Crescent, separating rival powers located in Mesopotamia and in Egypt.

King Ahab was destined to do battle with the Assyrians. One of the well-known inscriptions of Assyria’s King Shalmaneser III describes the famous battle of Qarqar—which occurred about 893 B.C. between his army and a coalition of western nations allied against him, led by Israel under Ahab. Shalmaneser’s inscription says, “I crossed the Euphrates; at Qarqar I destroyed... 100,000 men of Ahab, the Israelite.” Contrary to the Assyrian’s boasting, that crucial battle was Ahab’s greatest military achievement and it momentarily checked the power of the “Colossus of the North.” However, the Assyrians would come back again and again for many years to come.

Jehu’s Bloody Revolution

King Jehu, who had been anointed by God to overthrow the house of Omri, was a revolutionary firebrand who reigned over Israel for 28 years. During Jehu’s reign, Israel began to pay tribute to Assyria in a partly successful effort

to buy Assyrian protection (as a vassal state) from the Aramaeans (Syrians). Another famous inscription of Shalmaneser III recorded, “The *tribute* of Jehu, son [royal successor] of Omri, silver, gold, bowls of gold, chalices of gold, cups of gold, vases of gold, lead, scepter for the king, and spear shafts, I have received.”

Jeroboam II, the fourth king of the Jehu dynasty, was one of Israel’s most illustrious kings because He enlarged the Northern Kingdom of Israel to its greatest territorial extent. But “Israelite society, in spite of its healthy appearance, was in an advanced state of decay, socially, morally and religiously” (J. Bright, *History of Israel*, p. 256).

Prophetic Warnings & Assyrian Inroads

Through the voices of the prophets Amos and Hosea, Jeroboam’s contemporaries, we can still feel the intensity of God’s abhorrence at these backsliding, apostate people. The wealthy gained their money at the expense of the poor and deprived the needy of justice. “‘Therefore I will send you into *captivity* beyond Damascus,’ says the LORD, whose name is the God of hosts” (Amos 5:27).

Though the Israelites maintained a form of religion and gave lip service to God, they had forsaken all of His teachings and would reap bitter fruit: “MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE. BECAUSE YOU HAVE REJECTED KNOWLEDGE, I ALSO WILL REJECT YOU... BECAUSE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN THE LAW OF YOUR GOD, I ALSO WILL FORGET YOUR CHILDREN” (Hos. 4:6). God foretold their society’s collapse. As a result of its social, moral and religious decay, it would be too weak to resist invading armies and ultimate captivity.

During King Menahem’s reign, the Assyrians, under Tiglath-Pileser (Pul), began to seriously menace the nation. The Assyrians issued a demand that Menahem (“*Menihummu of Samerina*” in Assyrian annals) pay them *trib-*

ute—to which the Israelite king quickly acceded. Menahem's reign was overlapped by that of Israel's next-to-last king, Pekah, who would experience the heavy *yoke* of the rapidly rising Assyrian Empire. He was a shrewd military officer who ruled for 20 years (2 Kings 15:27-31).

During King Pekah's reign he allied the Kingdom of *Israel* with Aram (Syria), and they together *attacked Judah* (2 Kings 16:5-6). NOTE: HERE IS THE FIRST USE OF THE TERM "JEWS" IN THE KING JAMES BIBLE AND THEY ARE AT WAR AGAINST "ISRAEL"!

Ahaz, king of Judah, sent an urgent appeal to the Assyrians for immediate assistance against his foes—Israel and Syria (2 Kings 16:7)—along with a large present. "So the king of Assyria heeded him" (v. 9).

Israel's Two Assyrian Captivities

Time had run out for Israel! God's patience with this part of His "covenant people" was at an end. God had warned them repeatedly of the consequences their sins would bring. Through Amos, He had threatened, "Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth" (Amos 9:8). But they ignored God. They simply would not heed. So He delivered them over to the cruelty of Assyrian captivity: "In the days of Pekah king of Israel, TIGLATH-PILESER [III] KING OF ASSYRIA CAME AND TOOK IJON, ABEL BETH MAACHAH, JANOAH, KEDESH, HAZOR, GILEAD, AND GALILEE, ALL THE LAND OF NAPHTALI; AND HE CARRIED THEM [THE ISRAELITES] CAPTIVE TO ASSYRIA" (2 Kings 15:29)!

The Israelites were deported in *two separate captivities*. The one just mentioned was the *first*. Based on the locations just given, this first deportation was also known as the "Galilean Captivity." It included all the Israelites living throughout Galilee and the Plain of Sharon, plus the territo-

ries east of the Jordan (Reuben, Gad and the eastern half-tribe of Manasseh (1 Chron. 5:26).

After the Galilean Captivity, only a rather small “rump state” situated around Samaria, Israel’s capital city, remained intact. Regarding this same captivity, Tiglath-Pileser III himself said “Bet Omri [House of Omri = Israel] all of whose cities I had added to my territories on my former campaigns, and had LEFT OUT ONLY THE CITY OF SAMARIA.... The whole of Naphtali I took for Assyria. I put my officials over them as governors. The land of Bet Omri, all its people and their possessions I took away to Assyria” (*Western Campaign and Gala/Damascus Campaign*).

After becoming a vassal to the Assyrians, Israel’s new king, Hoshea, tried to enlist Egyptian aid to free Israel from that yoke (2 Kings 17:1-4). This rebellion by Samaria’s last monarch, and the stubborn resistance of a small portion of the Israelites, convinced the Assyrians they would have to completely break both the power and will of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Their answer? Israel’s *second* Assyrian captivity!

The inspired biblical historian says, “Now the king of Assyria... went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea [about 722 B.C.], the king of Assyria TOOK SAMARIA AND CARRIED ISRAEL AWAY TO ASSYRIA, AND PLACED THEM IN HALAH AND BY THE HARBOR, THE RIVER OF GOZAN, AND IN THE CITIES OF THE MEDES” (2 Kings 17:5-6).

“*There was none left but the tribe [or kingdom] of Judah alone*”! So only the people of the Southern Kingdom of JUDAH were left!

Notice this too: Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria *instead* of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities” (2 Kings 17:24). These Gentile people from Babylonia, who totally displaced the Israelites,

became known as the SAMARITANS—as they were still called in Christ’s day.

Both the Bible and the Assyrian state records agree: the inhabitants of the Ten Tribes were removed from the land of Israel! Apparently, some stragglers were left behind, and a few even moved south to Judah. This explains all biblical references to people from the northern Ten Tribes in the Holy Land following the Assyrian captivity. So all the Ten Tribes, as *tribes*, were removed—*not one single tribe remained!*

Finally, after many decades (even centuries) of rank idolatry and debased morality, God’s patience had worn thin. Israel’s day of reckoning came at the hands of the cruelest of all the heathen conquerors—the Assyrian empire, the rod of God’s anger (Isa. 10:5-6). The ancient Kingdom of Israel was destroyed—without ever realizing the tremendous blessings God had promised!

In all the days from Joseph until the Assyrian captivity, the Israelites *never* colonized around the entire globe, inheriting its best agricultural regions. They *never* came into possession of the most important land and sea gates of the world. They *never* became a “multitude of nations”—much less the prophesied “nation and a company of nations.” And by no stretch of the imagination did they ever become the greatest military superpower nations on the planet!

So these blessings had to wait until the Israelites returned to the Promised Land from captivity—right? NO! For—and here’s the astonishing part—the Ten Tribes of Israel NEVER CAME BACK, even to this day! To many historians, they simply disappeared from history and are now known as the “Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.” What happened to them? Does anyone know? Were they destroyed from the face of the earth? If they were, then what about all of God’s promises?

We can’t answer this apparent dilemma by looking at what happened to the people of *Judah* and their modern

descendants, the *Jews*. The Southern Kingdom of Judah, made up of the two tribes of Benjamin and Judah (as well as those from the tribe of Levi), continued as a viable kingdom until its downfall around 602 B.C., at which time the *Babylonians* took the people of Judah captive to Babylon.

Shortly after the fall of Babylon, around 532 B.C., some of the Jews returned to their former land of Judah and, under Ezra and Nehemiah, reestablished themselves as the nation of *Judah*. However, only a small portion of the Jews returned to the Promised Land at that time—and *not one* of the TEN TRIBES returned with those Jews who did!

For the most part, the Jews remained a subject people of the great empires of the Middle East except for a very brief period of independence under the Hasmonean dynasty of the Maccabees. At the time of Christ, the kingdom of Judea had become directly subject to Rome (from 47 B.C.). And, almost 40 years after Christ's death, the Romans, in putting down a Jewish insurrection, razed Jerusalem in 70 A.D. After putting down a *later* revolt (132-135) led by Simon Bar Kokhba, the Romans wiped out the Jewish state completely, changing the name of the province to Syria Palaestina (after Israel's ancient enemy, the Philistines)—out of spite.

In following centuries, the Jews were continuously scattered and persecuted—yet, amazingly, their identity was somehow preserved. They never had any real homeland up until the creation of the modern Jewish state of “Israel” in 1948. Yet even *it* contains only a fraction of the world's ethnic Jews. And it is a far cry from the national greatness promised Israel's descendants. Is there an answer to this quandary? There certainly is—as following chapters will reveal—and it is one of the most astounding revelations in your Bible!

A Great Mystery Of History

BECAUSE of their terrible sins, “the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight.... For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until THE LORD REMOVED ISRAEL OUT OF HIS SIGHT, AS HE HAD SAID BY ALL HIS SERVANTS THE PROPHETS. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria” (2 Kings 17:20, 22-23)!

They had been amply warned—over centuries of time! In fact, shortly before his death, Moses had given the Israelites a stern warning regarding what would happen to them *if* they departed from their God and His covenant: “And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess. Then the LORD will SCATTER YOU AMONG ALL PEOPLES, FROM ONE END OF THE EARTH TO THE OTHER” (Deut. 28:63-63)! “I will *scatter you among the nations* and draw out a sword after you” (Lev. 26:33).

Throughout the entire history of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, God sent many of His prophets to warn the people to reform their ways or else lose their God-given heritage. For example, after the North’s very first king, Jeroboam,

instituted idolatrous worship in the kingdom, God sent the Prophet Ahijah with a chilling message: “For the LORD will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water. He will UPROOT ISRAEL FROM THIS GOOD LAND which He gave to their fathers, and will *scatter them beyond the [Euphrates] River*” (1 Kings 14:15).

In this and the next chapter, we examine one of the greatest mysteries of the Bible: *What happened* to the northern Ten Tribes of Israel after they were taken into captivity beyond the Euphrates?

Which Tribes Returned to the Promised Land?

Some historians have held the view that the northern Ten Tribes returned to the Promised Land from the areas of their *Assyrian* captivity at the same time the Jews returned from their later *Babylonian* captivity—and that the northern Israelites subsequently intermingled with the *Jews*, losing their separate national identity. But this just isn’t so! The Bible makes it very clear that the overwhelming majority of those who returned to the Holy Land from Babylonian captivity were from the tribes of JUDAH and BENJAMIN, plus part of LEVI.

Some today harbor a common misconception that all Twelve Tribes returned to the Promised Land (“Judah” or “Judea”) in the 500s and 400s B.C. But this can be disproven by two valuable sources: Scripture (especially, the books of Ezra and Nehemiah) and the brilliant Jewish historian, *Flavius Josephus* (37-100 A.D.).

Testimony of Ezra: God “stirred up the spirit” of King Cyrus the Great so he would permit the Jews to “build Him [God] a house at Jerusalem which is in *Judah*” (Ezra 1:1-2). But which tribes of Israel returned at that time to help build the Temple at Jerusalem? “Then the heads of the fathers’ houses of *Judah* and *Benjamin*, and the priests and

the *Levites*... arose to go up and build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem” (v. 5).

A careful study of the rest of this book clearly reveals that those *Israelites* who were mentioned were only from the tribes of JUDAH, BENJAMIN AND LEVI.

Testimony of Nehemiah: “So I called a great assembly.... And I said to them [the Jews], ‘According to our ability we have redeemed our JEWISH BRETHREN’.... Moreover there were at my table 150 *Jews* and rulers” (Neh. 5:7-8, 17). He also says, “And I found a register of the genealogy of those who had come up in the first return [from Babylonian captivity], and found written in it: ‘These are the people who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of *Babylon* had carried away captive [to *Babylon*—NOT to *Assyria*!], and who returned to *Jerusalem and Judah* [NOT *Samaria* and northern *Israel*], everyone to his *own city*” (7:5-6). Thus the Bible makes it very plain that those who returned were NOT descendants of the northern Ten Tribes who went into *Assyrian* captivity in the 700s B.C. Rather, they were descendants of those *Jews* taken captive to *Babylonia* in 602 B.C.

Testimony of Flavius Josephus: Writing his history near the end of the first century A.D., Josephus explains, “The entire body of the people [the Ten Tribes] of ISRAEL remained in that country, wherefore there are but *two tribes* [Judah and Benjamin] in Asia and Europe subject to the Romans, while the *ten tribes* ARE BEYOND EUPHRATES TILL NOW [98 A.D.], AND ARE AN IMMENSE MULTITUDE, AND NOT TO BE ESTIMATED BY NUMBERS” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, bk. 11, chap. 5, sec. 2). That should settle the matter! More than 600 years after the return of the Jews to the Promised Land from Babylonian exile, the Ten Tribes had *still* not returned from the lands beyond the Euphrates River to which the Assyrians had deported them!

No, they hadn't returned by then and they still haven't returned to this very day! Notice this from the *Jewish Quarterly Review*: "THE CAPTIVES OF [THE TEN TRIBES OF] ISRAEL EXILED BEYOND THE EUPHRATES DID *not* RETURN AS A WHOLE TO PALESTINE ALONG WITH THEIR BRETHREN THE CAPTIVES OF JUDAH; at least there is no mention made of this event in [any of] the documents at our disposal" (vol. 1, p. 15). The exiled northern ten Tribes did *not* return to their former homeland, nor were they later assimilated, as a group, by their relatives, the Jews. Neither were they assimilated by other people. What, then, became of them?

Israel's Identity Lost

A Jewish historian Alfred Edersheim, says, "No notice has been taken of those wanderers of the Ten Tribes, whose *trackless footsteps* seem as mysterious as their after-fate.... Josephus [cited above] describes them as an innumerable multitude, and vaguely locates them beyond the Euphrates.... STILL THE GREAT MASS OF THE TEN TRIBES WAS IN THE DAYS OF CHRIST, AS IN OUR OWN, LOST TO THE HEBREW NATION" (*Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, p. 14-16).

Another prominent Jewish historian says, "The kingdom of the Ten Tribes of Israel, had in one day disappeared, leaving no trace behind. The country vomited out the Ten Tribes, as it had vomited out the Canaanitish tribes. What has become of them? They have been looked for and believed to have been discovered in the distant East as well as in the far West.... But there can be no doubt that the Ten Tribes have been irretrievably lost among the nations" (Graetz, *History of the Jews*, vol. 1, p. 265).

Graetz, though, was only partially correct. UNLIKE THE JEWS, THE ISRAELITES HAD LOST THE LAWS OF GOD THAT IDENTIFIED THEM AS HIS PEOPLE (SUCH AS THE SABBATH—EX. 31:13-17). So when they were put away (Jer. 3:8), cast from God's sight and scattered, the Ten Tribes of Israel,

over the course of time, forgot their identity and became the LOST Ten Tribes. As we will later see, Jesus Christ referred to them as the “LOST sheep of the House of Israel” (Mat. 15:24). So they were indeed “lost.” But, it is a serious mistake to assume, as did Graetz, that the Ten Tribes have become “*irretrievably* lost.”

Why? Because God’s Word tells us otherwise! Before Israel’s captivity, the Prophet Amos quoted God as saying, “BEHOLD, THE EYES OF THE LORD GOD ARE ON THE SINFUL KINGDOM [ISRAEL], AND I WILL DESTROY IT FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH” (Amos 9:8). The political entity of the Kingdom of Israel was indeed destroyed. But the prophecy did not end here. The same verse continues, “...YET I WILL NOT UTTERLY DESTROY THE HOUSE OF JACOB.” Though God would completely destroy their *kingdom*, He would not wipe out the *people* of Israel.

Notice what God says He would do next: “FOR SURELY I WILL COMMAND, AND WILL SIFT THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AMONG ALL NATIONS, AS GRAIN IS SIFTED IN A SIEVE” (Amos 9:9). We have already seen this in other prophecies. The people of the Ten Tribes would be scattered and dispersed abroad. So would this be the end of Israel? Would the Israelites be assimilated into other nations and disappear as a people? The rest of the verse answers, “...YET NOT THE SMALLEST GRAIN SHALL FALL TO THE GROUND.” God would SIFT the Israelites through other nations. But, in doing so, He would preserve them intact as a people. They would NOT be amalgamated with other people. Not one of them would be “*irretrievably* lost.”

This is further borne out by the fact that Bible prophecy identifies Israel as a key player in end-time events. Israel *must* exist today as “many nations.” If we accept the Bible, then we must also accept all of its promises and prophecies regarding the national greatness of Israel, in addition to what it says about Israel’s return from a yet future captivity. If, however, the Israelites have become so lost that they

can never be found, then the Bible must be completely rejected as untrustworthy!

The *Jewish Quarterly Review* cited above says that “the return of the Ten Tribes was one of the great promises of the Prophets, and the advent of the Messiah is therefore necessarily identified with the epic of their redemption.... The hope of the return of the Ten Tribes has never ceased among the Jews in Exile.... This hope has been connected with every Messianic rising” (p. 17, 21).

The *Jewish Encyclopedia* says, “AS A LARGE NUMBER OF prophecies RELATE TO THE return OF ‘ISRAEL’ TO THE HOLY LAND, BELIEVERS IN THE LITERAL INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES HAVE ALWAYS LABORED UNDER A DIFFICULTY IN REGARD TO THE *continued existence* OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE OF JUDAH AND LEVI (OR BENJAMIN), WHICH RETURNED WITH EZRA AND NEHEMIAH. IF THE TEN TRIBES HAVE DISAPPEARED, THE LITERAL FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECIES WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE: IF THEY HAVE NOT DISAPPEARED, *obviously* **THEY MUST EXIST UNDER A DIFFERENT NAME**” (“Tribes, Lost Ten,” vol. 12, p. 249).

The *Jewish Chronicle* of May 2, 1897, says, “THE SCRIPTURES SPEAK OF A FUTURE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL, WHICH IS CLEARLY TO INCLUDE BOTH JUDAH AND EPHRAIM (OR ISRAEL). [SEE EZEKIEL 37:16-22.] *The problem, then, is reduced to its simplest form. THE TEN TRIBES ARE CERTAINLY IN EXISTENCE. ALL THAT HAS TO BE DONE IS TO DISCOVER WHICH PEOPLE REPRESENT THEM*”!

To do this, we must understand, according to the Bible, the prophecies we have seen of “a nation and a company of nations” with awesome national wealth, and *where* God said they would be!

Where Does God's Word Locate Modern Israel?

So *where* does God's Word locate the birthright holders of Israel in end-time prophecy? In the book of Jeremiah, God gives instructions to those bearing His message in the *end time*: "Backsliding *Israel* hath justified herself more than treacherous *Judah*. Go and proclaim these words toward the *north*, and say, Return, thou backsliding *Israel*, saith the LORD" (Jer. 3:11-12 KJV).

Israel is clearly differentiated from *Judah* (the Jews) here and was to be found to the NORTH. As such directions in the Bible are always given from the vantage point of Jerusalem, that was certainly true during the time of the ancient Northern Kingdom. But this prophecy was recorded more than 100 years *after* Israel's Assyrian deportation.

Notice a few verses later, obviously referring to a yet future time: "In those days the *house of Judah* shall walk with *the house of Israel*, and they shall come together out of the land of the NORTH to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers" (Jer. 3:18). As we have seen, this prophesied return has never happened. Israel, then, would be to the *north* of the Holy Land in the last days.

But some will argue that the areas of northern Mesopotamia and Media to which Israel was anciently deported, although not *due* north, were, nevertheless, *north* of the Holy Land. And so they were. They were *northeast* of the Holy Land. But notice that Hosea 12:1 says, "Ephraim... pursues the east wind." An east wind comes from the east and blows WEST! Hosea also recorded God asking, "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel?" (11:8). He then states, "I will not again destroy Ephraim.... They shall walk after the LORD.... Then His sons shall come trembling from the WEST" (v. 9-10). This cannot, then, refer to the ancient Assyrian captivity of Israel.

Where, to the north and west, would Israel be? God says, "Behold, I will bring them [the Israelites] from the

north country.... For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the *isles afar off*” (Jer. 30:8-10). Isles? Our search is becoming even more intriguing.

This prophecy is corroborated in the book of Isaiah. God says, “Keep silence before Me, O *islands* (KJV)... You, Israel, are My servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend” (Isa. 41:1, 8). He further confirms this a few chapters later: “Listen, O *isles*, unto Me; and hearken, ye people, from far.... Thou art My servant, O Israel” (Isa. 49:1, 3 KJV). Later He states, “Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from THE NORTH AND THE WEST...” (Isa. 49:12).

In the ancient Hebrew language, from which this verse was translated, there was no specific word for “northwest,” but that is what was actually meant by “the north and the west.”

We now have all the information we need to identify modern “Israel.” Which great “nation and company of nations” rose to great prominence, even sitting as “chief of the nations” (Jer. 31:7) and possessing greater national wealth than any other political entities in human history? Which people have come from the “islands” far to the *northwest* of Jerusalem—who, finding these islands “too small” (Isa 49:20), had to branch out and colonize all over the world (Gen 28:14, 49:22)? Who has possessed the vital *sea gates* of the world and, for centuries now, has “ruled the waves”? Is the answer not right here before us? Surely there can be NO mistaking this description!

Look at a world map. If we extend a line due northwest of Jerusalem, it crosses the European continent, comes to the sea and then reaches “the isles afar off.” Which isles are these? *The British Isles!* As we will see more closely later, the “company of nations”—*Ephraim*—*is clearly the United Kingdom of Great Britain* along with the other British-descended nations of the Commonwealth (Canada, Austral-

ia and New Zealand). And the great single nation that emerged from there—*Manasseh—is the United States of America!*

Amazing! The Puritan founders of America were more right than they knew! There can be no question, now, that when God's holy Word refers to Ephraim and Manasseh in prophecy, it means the *English-speaking people!* As incredible as it sounds, our *Anglo-Saxon-Celtic* people are the true physical descendants of the actual tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh that were lost with the other northern tribes of Israel!

The Birthright Finally Realized!

HOW did God at last fulfill the birthright promises of a GREAT NATION and a COMPANY OF NATIONS (Gen. 35:11; 48-49)? The answer is a story which should be quite familiar to most Americans and Britons—because it is simply the story of the modern history of our nations!

Of course, the vast majority of our people do *not* comprehend this most important aspect about our nations' history. Many of us fail to grasp the *reason* for the incredible rise of the English-speaking people to unparalleled greatness and prosperity. As Winston Churchill said before the U.S. Congress on December 26, 1941, "He must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below."

Let's now examine the last few centuries of American and British history from the awesome perspective of God's Word.

The World's Greatest Colonizers

By the early 1500s, Spain had become the most powerful nation in Europe—enjoying almost total navel supremacy. England, on the other hand, was only an average power. But then came England's victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588. Amazingly, the Armada was defeated—not so much by English might as by stormy weather! Winston

Churchill later wrote that “THE DEFEAT OF THE ARMADA CAME AS A MIRACLE.... One of the medals struck to commemorate the victory bears the inscription ‘*Afflavit Deus et dissipantur*’—‘GOD BLEW AND THEY WERE SCATTERED’” (*History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, vol. 2).

From that day forward, English sailors confidently believed they could more than hold their own against their Spanish counterparts. It was England’s naval confidence on the high seas which gave her the courage to make permanent settlements around the world.

Chief among the world’s colonizing nations were the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people from the British Isles. Only Bible prophecy explains *why*, beginning in the early 1600s, the colonizing instinct became so strong in these people. God, remember, had promised Jacob, “Your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; YOU SHALL SPREAD ABROAD TO THE WEST AND THE EAST, TO THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH” (Gen. 28:14). So Jacob’s descendants were destined to become the world’s foremost colonizers!

Remember, also, that *Joseph’s* descendants would become the *chief* colonizers of Israel: “Joseph is a *fruitful bough*, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall” (Gen. 49:22). But *where* would they “run over the wall” (colonize)? Verse 26: “Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.” Genesis 27:28 says they would be given the “fat places of the earth” (JPS). Fulfillment of some of these blessings can be seen in the words of the song, “America the Beautiful,” by Katherine Lee Bates: “O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!”

By itself, the cozy island of Britain is an incredibly beautiful and productive land. Yet remember that, according to prophecy, the people there would someday say, “THE PLACE IS *too small* FOR ME; GIVE ME A PLACE WHERE I MAY DWELL” (Isa. 49:20). So, from this small homeland, Britons went forth and colonized nine-tenths of the North American

continent, the whole continent of Australia, the beautiful, rich lands of New Zealand, parts of South Africa and numerous other islands and territories.

There is no other instance in the entire history of the world where such a small, seemingly insignificant people spread out around the globe, successfully colonizing such enormous, rich tracts of land—thereby becoming *many nations!*

How did Britain become “too small”—creating the need to colonize? Historians reveal that various factors (war, famine, disease) kept the population of Britain from increasing very rapidly until the Industrial Revolution (1750-1850). Then, suddenly, a population explosion occurred. British historian, Colin Cross, observes that “ONE OF THE UNEXPLAINED MYSTERIES OF SOCIAL HISTORY IS THE EXPLOSION IN THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION OF GREAT BRITAIN BETWEEN 1750 AND 1850. For generations the British population had been static, or rising only slightly. Then in the space of a century it almost tripled—from 7.7 million in 1750 to 20.7 million in 1850. Why it happened is unknown.... It must just be recorded that human reproduction and vitality follows unpredictable patterns.... Britain was a dynamic country and one of the marks of its dynamism was the population explosion” (*Fall of the British Empire*, p. 155).

Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India, in 1907, expressed the belief that God had put in the Englishmen a *divine impulse* to establish colonies around the globe: “I would describe the [British] Empire... as the result, not of an accident or a series of accidents, but of an instinct—that ineradicable and DIVINELY IMPLANTED IMPULSE, WHICH HAS SENT THE ENGLISHMAN FORTH INTO THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH, and made him there the parent of new societies and the architect of unpremeditated creations” (*The British Empire*, BBCTV and Time-Life Books, p. 2,466).

A Nation and a Company of Nations

As Creator, Possessor and Ruler of this earth, it is within God's prerogative to give any nation or individual whatever portion of this earth He chooses (Gen. 14:19; Acts 17:23-26). The French assemblyman Alexis de Tocqueville made these incisive comments in his famous 1835 work, *Democracy in America*: "The Indians OCCUPIED but did not POSSESS the land. It is by agriculture that man wins the soil, and the first inhabitants of North America lived by hunting.... Providence [God] when it placed them amid the riches of the New World, seems to have granted them a short lease only; they were there, in some sense, only waiting. Those coasts so well suited for trade and industry, those deep rivers, that inexhaustible valley of the Mississippi—in short, the whole continent—seemed THE YET EMPTY CRADLE OF A GREAT NATION" (p. 24).

De Tocqueville further stated, "When the Creator handed the earth over to men, it was young and inexhaustible, but they were weak and ignorant; and by the time that they had learned to take advantage of the treasures it contained, they already covered its face, and soon they were having to fight for the right to an asylum where they could rest in freedom. It was then that North America was discovered, *as if God had held it in reserve* and it had only just arisen above the waters of the flood" (p. 258).

North America was indeed held "in reserve" by God for the descendants of Israel. As God had inspired Moses to write, "When the Most High *divided their inheritance to the nations*, when He separated the sons of Adam, HE SET THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PEOPLES [ALL OTHER NATIONS] ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL [whose population size He foresaw and planned for]" (Deut. 32:8)!

Great Britain established its first permanent colony in North America at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. In 1620, the Mayflower landed at Plymouth Rock with its Pilgrim settlers. The Puritans arrived soon afterward to establish the

Massachusetts Bay Colony. By the early 1700s, a string of 13 thriving British colonies were firmly established along the eastern seaboard of North America. In the 1763 Treaty of Paris, France ceded to Britain her Canadian colonies, as well as all the Louisiana Territory east of the Mississippi River—excluding the city of New Orleans. Thus the die had been cast toward making the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people the dominant ethnic group in North America.

Remember, Joseph's descendants were to become a "great nation" and a "company of nations." Only 12 years after the first Treaty of Paris in 1763, the 13 British colonies in North America rebelled against the Mother Country. During their War of Independence (1775-1783), the upstart Americans threw off the Old World's yoke.

Subsequently, the *second* Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783—this time by British and American diplomats. In this treaty, Britain officially recognized the United States as a sovereign nation and ceded all of her North American territories south of the Great Lakes to the victorious rebels. Spain's Florida Territory then formed the southern boundary of the new Republic, and the Mississippi River formed its western boundary. Now it could rightly be said that America was assured of becoming the GREAT NATION God had promised.

The incredible birthright promises of "a nation and a company of nations" would now be fulfilled. This required separating the two brothers, Ephraim and Manasseh. So, in the late 1700s, God did just that.

He certainly guided the outcome of the Revolution, or the Americans would have been crushed by the far-more-powerful British. Benjamin Franklin reminded the Constitutional Convention in 1787, "In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection.

"Our prayers, sir, were answered. ALL OF US WHO WERE ENGAGED IN THE STRUGGLE MUST HAVE OBSERVED FRE-

QUENT INSTANCES OF A SUPERINTENDING PROVIDENCE IN OUR FAVOR. To that kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity.”

This however, does not mean that God favored America (Manasseh) over Britain (Ephraim). He was simply working out His purpose. God gave the Americans victory when they fought in their own land—but *not* when they advanced into British *Canadian* territory: “From the beginning, America’s first campaign of territorial conquest [into Canada] seemed dogged with misfortune. *Everything* went wrong.... THE ANNEXATION OF CANADA WAS CLEARLY NOT IN GOD’S PLAN FOR THE UNITED STATES.... IT WAS AS IF GOD HAD A DIFFERENT PLAN FOR CANADA... A PLAN SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM HIS PLAN FOR AMERICA” (Peter Marshall and David Manuel, *The Light and the Glory*, p. 292, 295-296). And so He did. God, we now know, had reserved that area for Ephraim! Thus, God divided the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh politically and began to bless them in their separate courses—yet not *so* separate, for these sons of Joseph are close brothers. The Declaration of Independence even mentions “the ties of our common kindred”!

America’s “Manifest Destiny”

Only a few years after America gained her independence, Napoleon Bonaparte’s war-weary French Empire made an incredible deal with U.S. President Thomas Jefferson in 1803. France sold the Louisiana Territory to America for about \$15 million, a paltry *five cents per acre!* By the “Louisiana Purchase,” the U.S. acquired more than 500 million acres of the richest, most fertile farmland on earth—the “Breadbasket of the World.” And, by this awesome purchase, the size of the U.S.A. grew by about 140 percent!

Napoleon is said to have remarked, “This accession of territory affirms forever the power of the United States.” Robert Livingstone (U.S. ambassador to France) is said to have commented, “From this day the United States take their place among the powers of the first rank.” Never before in the history of mankind had any nation struck such a wonderful deal!

Massive territorial expansion continued, and many Americans came to believe in “Manifest Destiny”—that God had foreordained the American people to possess the vast land between Mexico and Canada, “from sea to shining sea.” During the 1840s, the idea of America’s “Manifest Destiny” swept the nation like a religious revival.

In *The United States Magazine and Democratic Review*, John L. O’Sullivan wrote of “the fulfillment of *our manifest destiny* to overspread the continent allotted by Providence [God] for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions.” He argued that America’s claim to the Oregon Territory was “*the right of our manifest destiny* to overspread and possess the whole continent which Providence has given us for the development of liberty and federative self-government.”

In exactly 70 years, 1783-1853, the United States acquired all the territory of the original contiguous 48 states. Never before in the entire history of the world had any nation acquired so much land so cheaply! But that was not the end of U.S. territorial acquisitions!

America’s hunger for new land was *still* not fully satisfied. So, in 1867, the U.S. purchased “Russian America” (Alaska) from Russia for the unbelievably low price of \$7,200,000—only about *two cents per acre!* Despite the extremely low cost, the fantastic purchase of Alaska was ridiculed by some Americans as “Seward’s Icebox” and “Seward’s Folly” (William Seward was America’s Secretary of State who negotiated the purchase). But those fool-

ish Americans soon came to see their own folly when *gold* was discovered in the Klondike region in 1896.

Furthermore, the “Alaskan Pipeline” is now a major source of American oil! And the sale of Alaskan fish, lumber, minerals, petroleum and other commercial products nets the U.S. TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY!

With the purchase of Alaska in 1867, America had acquired her final territorial acquisition in continental North America. Thus, during a period of a mere 84 years (1783-1867), the United States received legitimate titles to all of the contiguous 48 states, plus the mineral-rich land of Alaska! Later, America would receive titles to Hawaii, Puerto Rico and other beautiful and strategically important islands.

Prophesied Anglo-American Military Might

During Israel’s 40-year sojourn in the desert, its enemies hired Balaam, a false prophet, to employ enchantments against the people of Israel—hoping to curse them. But, God forced Balaam, against his will, to prophesy good things regarding Israel (Num. 22-24).

Balaam asked, “How shall I curse [Israel] whom God has *not* cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the LORD has *not* denounced? ...How lovely are your tents, O Jacob! Your dwellings, O Israel! ...He has strength like a wild ox [“unicorn” KJV—symbolic here of a very powerful nation]; he shall *consume* the nations, his enemies; he shall break their bones and pierce them with his arrows. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who will rouse him? Blessed is he who blesses you [Israel], and cursed is he who curses you” (Num. 23:8; 24:5, 8-9).

The Prophet Micah also revealed that the modern descendants of Israel would be like the king of beasts among the nations of this earth: “AND THE REMNANT OF JACOB SHALL BE AMONG THE GENTILES, IN THE MIDST OF MANY

PEOPLES, LIKE A LION AMONG THE BEASTS OF THE FOREST, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, who, if he passes through, both treads down and tears in pieces, and none can deliver. Your hand shall be lifted against your adversaries, and *all your enemies shall be cut off*" (Micah 5:8-9)!

Remember from chapter one that, of Israel's descendants, *Joseph's* offspring were prophesied to become the most powerful in *military prowess*. In fact, they would become the most powerful nations on earth! Of Joseph "in the last days" (Gen 49:1), Jacob said, "The archers [his enemies] have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him. But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob... who will help you" (Gen. 49:23-25). Clearly, Joseph's descendants would become *mighty* in military power "in the last days."

We also saw a similar picture of modern Joseph given to Moses: "His glory is like a firstborn bull, and his horns [weapons] are like the horns of a wild ox ["unicorns" KJV]; together with them he shall push the peoples [Gentile nations] to the ends of the earth; they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh" (Deut. 33:17). How did God fulfill His many promises regarding the people of Israel becoming as powerful as a lion or a wild bull among the nations of this world?

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, a global power shift occurred in the last few years of the 1700s. Napoleon Bonaparte attempted to seize Egypt, fully intending to gain control of the Mideast and, eventually, to wrest India from the British as a prized imperial possession. But he was thwarted by the British navy. In 1798, Britain's Admiral Horatio Nelson tracked Napoleon's French fleet to Aboukir Bay, Egypt, and then almost destroyed it at the famous Battle of the Nile.

"Overnight, the Mediterranean became an English sea. Napoleon's army, although intact, was stranded in Egypt.

Bonaparte could not march to India which was his plan—without a fleet behind to supply him. He tried to move up through the Levant [Eastern Mediterranean] but a British naval squadron stopped him at Acre. ‘If it had not been for you English, I’d have been Emperor of the East,’ he said later. ‘BUT WHEREVER THERE IS WATER TO FLOAT A SHIP WE ARE SURE TO FIND YOU [ENGLISH] IN THE WAY’” (*British Empire*, vol. 1, p. 274).

One of history’s most significant naval engagements occurred in 1805, when British Admiral Lord Nelson virtually annihilated a combined French and Spanish fleet off Cape Trafalgar and captured 20 enemy ships. Although Lord Nelson died in battle, France, Spain and other nations were forced to acknowledge British supremacy over the high seas. British historian James Morris, in his *Pas Britannica*, writes, “THE PRESENCE OF THE SEA, AT ONCE INSULATING THE MOTHER COUNTRY AND LINKING IT WITH THE EMPIRE, GAVE THE BRITISH AN IMPERIAL CONFIDENCE” (p. 46).

Britain’s pride in her supremacy over the seven seas was aptly illustrated by the words of British Admiral St. Vincent: “I do not say the French cannot come. I only say they cannot come *by sea*.”

In the fateful years 1853-1854, *American* naval power, under Commodore Matthew C. Perry, persuaded the Japanese leaders to crawl out of their isolationist cocoon, thereby opening Japan to the outside world. And American sea power later enabled the U.S. to achieve a quick victory over Spain in the Spanish-American War of 1898.

Anglo-American dominance of the high seas was crucial in their victory over the Central Powers in World War I and the Axis Powers in World War II. Even though Germany and Japan seriously challenged the U.S. and Britain on the high seas during World War II, Anglo-American naval strength—aided by Almighty God—finally won out!

A major reason for British-American supremacy on the high seas is something else that was prophesied thousands of years ago. Recall that God told Abraham, “YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL POSSESS THE GATE OF THEIR ENEMIES (Gen 22:17)! This blessing was reiterated to Israel’s mother: “MAY YOUR OFFSPRING GAIN POSSESSION OF THE GATES OF THEIR FOES (Gen 24:60 NRSV). The Anglo-Americans have possessed, over a period of four centuries, most of the major “sea gates”—vital maritime choke points—of the world.

The Greatest Empire in All History!

“It is likely that if a public opinion poll had asked a representative cross-section of Englishmen in the late 1890s whether they would accept the following two propositions—that the British people had a *divinely ordained calling* to hold and rule an overseas empire, and that they ruled their Empire better than any other European power—the overwhelming majority would have answered ‘yes’ to both” (*British Empire*, p. 2,466).

Lord Archibald, British prime minister (1894-1895), made some revealing comments while speaking to students at Glasgow University in November 1900. Referring to the British Empire, he called its construction “human, and not wholly human, for THE MOST HEEDLESS AND THE MOST CYNICAL MUST SEE THE FINGER OF THE DIVINE... reaching with a ripple of a restless tide over tracts, and islands and continents, until our little Britain woke up to find herself *the foster-mother of nations and the source of united empires*. Do we not hail in this, less the energy and fortune of a race than THE SUPREME DIRECTION OF THE ALMIGHTY?” (p. 2,466).

Just what did God direct Ephraim’s descendants to inherit? In its heyday, the enormity of the British Empire was staggering to contemplate. As it was spread out around the

entire globe, a popular saying of the time was, “The sun never sets on the British Empire.” Just how big was it? “*It was the largest empire in the history of the world, comprising nearly a quarter of the land mass of the earth, and a quarter of the population....*

“In fact... it continued to grow until 1933, when its area was 13.9 million square miles and its population 493 million.... The *Roman Empire* in its prime comprised perhaps 120 million people in an area of 2.5 million square miles” (Morris, p. 21, 27, 42). Thus we see that THE BRITISH EMPIRE WAS MORE THAN FIVE TIMES THE SIZE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, AND INCLUDED WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION MORE THAN FOUR TIMES THE NUMBER OF SUBJECTS!

Was the Empire the result of an intelligent, carefully-thought-out British plan, or was it something which the British *stumbled onto*—almost in spite of themselves—because they, unknowingly, were being used by God to fulfill His Word, written nearly 4,000 years ago? “It was [British historian] Sir John Seeley who remarked that the Empire had been acquired ‘in a fit of absence of mind’” (p. 37).

Morris answers, “Their Empire, hitherto seen as a fairly haphazard accretion of possessions, now appeared to be setting into some gigantic pattern.... They felt their power was self-engendering, that they were riding a wave of DESTINY, sweeping them on to fulfillment.... The acquisition of it all had been a jerky process. Absence of mind it never was, but it had happened so obscurely that to the ordinary Briton the rise of the Empire must have seemed more like some organic movement than the conscious result of national policies. There seemed no deliberation to it. One thing simply led to another” (p. 22, 42).

He further explains, “Wherever there was [vacant land with a temperate climate]... the British had seized and occupied it, filling in the empty spaces of the world, and setting up their own kind of society wherever they went. Such

was, so the romantic idealists thought, the *Manifest Destiny of the Empire*” (p. 41).

“During Queen Victoria’s remarkable reign [the longest in British history, 1837-1901] THE EMPIRE HAD GROWN BY MORE THAN TEN TIMES, from a scatter of disregarded possessions TO A QUARTER OF THE LAND MASS OF THE EARTH, AND A THIRD OF ITS POPULATION. It had changed the face of the continents with its cities, its railways, its churches, its myriad cantonments, and it had changed the manner of life of entire peoples, stamping its own values upon civilizations from the Cree to the Burmese, besides creating several fully-fledged new nations of its own.

“The powers of the world, envious of the British Empire’s *splendor*, reluctantly acknowledged its *supremacy*. Even the German Kaiser [Wilhelm II] congratulated his aunt [Queen Victoria] upon her glorious Diamond Jubilee in 1897” (James Morris, *Heaven’s Command*, p. 539). The British Empire was the “forge” or the “crucible” by which the British-controlled territories were transformed into actual separate, completely sovereign “nations” of the Commonwealth.

“Chosen for Service”

James Morris also noted, “It was not merely the right of the British to rule a quarter of the world, so the imperialists thought, it was actually their *duty*. They were called. They would so distribute across the earth their own methods, principles and liberal traditions that the future of mankind would be reshaped. Justice would be established, miseries relieved, ignorant savages enlightened, all by the agency of British power and money” (Pax Britannica, p. 26).

Many Britons believed that the task of ruling their Empire was a divine assignment, and they took it very seriously. They felt an immense sense of pride in their imperial achievements. “Never since the world began... did any na-

tion assume anything like so much *responsibility*.... The British had no doubts about the superiority of their civilization and its faith.... ‘In the Empire we have found,’ George Curzon once magnificently announced, ‘not merely the key to glory and wealth, but the call to duty, and the means of *service* to mankind.’

“Even Joseph Chamberlain [colonial secretary, 1895-1903], who saw the Empire primarily as a profitable estate, declared that British imperial rule could be justified *only if it added to the happiness, prosperity, security and peace of the subject peoples*—‘in carrying out this work of civilization we are fulfilling what I believe to be our national mission.’ ‘Take up the White Man’s Burden!’ cried [author Rudyard] Kipling, when the Americans were debating whether or not to acquire the Philippines” (p. 45, 122).

Like our ancient father Joseph, the British and American people have served as able administrators over other nations (Gen. 27:29). But we Britons and Americans must never forget that God has blessed us, not because of our own innate intelligence, goodness or imagined superiority, but for His own high purpose! We have been chosen by God to fulfill a special purpose in His Great Master Plan (Ex. 19:4-6; Amos 3:2). Dr. Curzon said, “If we dare to use the [expression] ‘a chosen people,’ all boasting will be excluded if we remember that in the language of true religion ‘CHOSEN’ MEANS CHOSEN FOR SERVICE, PERHAPS FOR SUFFERING, NEVER FOR FAVORITISM” (Brian Williams, *Judgment on Britain*, 1966, p. 11)!

The United States of America emerged from the Second World War as the greatest superpower nation the world has ever seen. Winston Churchill later reflected on the brotherhood his nation shared with its chief ally. Speaking before the House of Commons on October 28, 1947, he said, “I must turn to the United States, with whom our fortunes and interests are intertwined.... The Americans... have become the greatest state and power in the world, speaking our own

language, cherishing our common law, and pursuing... the same ideals.”

Paul Kennedy, in *The Rise and Fall of Great Powers*, pointed out that, at the end of World War II, the U.S. was more powerful in relation to other nations than it has ever been: “AMERICA ALONE, HE NOTED, HELD THE SECRET TO THE ATOMIC BOMB. IT ALSO HELD TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD’S GOLD RESERVES, HALF ITS MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION AND HALF ITS SHIPS AND SUPPLIED ONE-THIRD OF THE GLOBE’S EXPORTS” (*Los Angeles Times*, Aug. 27, 1989).

What incredible power in the hands of a single nation! But how did America use that enormous wealth and influence? To browbeat other nations into submission? No! America set out to *rebuild* the nations of Europe through the Marshall Plan—*including Germany!* The U.S. governed Japan for a few years, reconstructed the war-torn country and gave it a new constitution. Germany and Japan are global economic powers today, thanks, in part, to the great generosity of the American people—for which all credit really belongs to God!

In recent years, the Soviet Union has disintegrated as a superpower. American President George Bush explained in his January 28, 1992, “State of the Union” address, “A world once divided into two armed camps now recognizes one sole and preeminent power, the United States of America. And they regard this with no dread. For the world trusts us with power, and the world is right. They trust us to be fair, and restrained. They trust us to be on the side of decency. They trust us to do what’s right.” These words followed the Persian Gulf War in which the American-led coalition *liberated* Kuwait from Iraq.

Israel—a Blessing to Other Nations!

Here, then, is the fulfillment of the *physical* aspect of God’s promise to Abraham that “in you all the families of

the earth shall be BLESSED” (Gen. 12:3). Not only would spiritual salvation come through Abraham’s descendant, Jesus Christ, but also Abraham’s modern descendants would be a great blessing to other nations.

The United States and Britain have spent multiple billions of dollars in providing foreign aid to other countries. Historically, our nations are the ones that have always raced to the rescue of those in need. Untold millions of tons of food and humanitarian supplies have been unloaded on foreign docks bearing such labels as, “From the people of the United States.”

Notice the incredible parallel drawn by Royal Society member Sir Oliver Joseph Lodge (1851-1940), a British physics professor and university principal: “WE [BRITISH], TOO, ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE. IT IS BLASPHEMY TO DENY OUR BIRTHRIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY. Our destiny in the world is no small one. We are peopling great tracts of the earth and carrying thither our language and our customs. *The migration of that primitive tribe from Ur of the Chaldees under the leadership of that splendid old chief, Abram, into the Land of Promise, was an event fraught with stupendous results for the human race.*” If Lodge only knew how true his words were!

But there is a *spiritual side* even to this. A British minister, C.H. Spurgeon (1834-1892), once said, “I JUDGE THAT GOD HAS BLESSED THE TWO GREAT NATIONS OF THE ANGLO-SAXON RACE—ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES—AND GIVEN THEM PREEMINENCE [SO THAT]... THEY MAY SPREAD ABROAD THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD” (*Treasury of the Old Testament*, vol. 2, p. 145).

How true! The Anglo-American people have sent hundreds of millions of *Bibles*, in virtually every known tongue, into all nations! And it has been primarily through those same people that the true Gospel of the Kingdom of God is being preached worldwide—and must yet be preached and published globally (Matt. 24:14; 28:19; Mark

16:15)! Americans and Britons have been chosen *not* for favoritism—but for *service* toward the other nations of the world!

Again, God fulfilled His promises in amazing detail. *Ishmael's* descendants, the Arabs, may have become an empire larger than Rome's, but that pales into insignificance when compared to what became of *Isaac's* descendants. Ephraim alone became the greatest empire in human experience—five times as big as that of the Romans—on which the sun never set! From it emerged a “multitude of nations”! Manasseh became the greatest single nation that has ever existed. Since World War II, it has been the undisputed leader of the free world.

The descendants of these two sons of Joseph came into possession of the most bountiful lands on earth. God gave them the vital sea gates of the world. They rose to military dominance and national prominence as no other nations ever have. They became industrial supergiants. And how did they use their new-found power? As a BLESSING to other people of the globe! Can you think of a more amazing proof of a living, intervening God?

Here, then, is Israel—NOT the tiny Jewish state in the Middle East, (which, incidentally, owes its very existence to the continued support of its Josephite brother, the U.S.A.), but superpower nations sitting astride the geopolitical landscape, controlling world affairs! *Here, then, is Israel*—NOT scratching in the dust to grow meager amounts of food to barely survive on, but helping to feed the entire planet from the superabundance of the richest soil imaginable! *Here, then, is Israel*—NOT looking elsewhere for new tools, but always leading the world in advancing the cutting edge of technology. *And here, then, is Israel*—NOT constantly defending her flag from stronger enemies, but planting her flag on the surface of the moon!

Can there be any doubt that the mighty hand of God has directed all of this? HOW THANKFUL ARE WE FOR WHAT

GOD HAS DONE? In the next chapter, we will see how well our American and British people have fared in living up to their divine calling and purpose—and what is prophesied to happen to them in the very near future!

What Is Now Prophesied?

WHAT does the future hold for our American and British people? Despite the tremendous, incredible blessings God has poured out on our people, not all is well with Britain and America. In fact, something terribly *wrong* has happened.

Following World War II, the sun finally set on the mighty British Empire as it quickly vanished from the global scene—almost overnight! Today, the *British Commonwealth* is no more. (There is still a “Commonwealth,” but its 50 member nations are no longer subject to the British Crown and are predominantly non-British in descent.)

The United States, once the greatest *creditor* nation in earth’s history—even forgiving many other nations many billions of dollars of debt—has now become the greatest *debtor* nation the world has ever seen! Our society is plagued by persistent unemployment, broken homes and crime.

Instead of gleaming “alabaster cities,” many of our urban centers are like festering scabs—just waiting to erupt in racial strife and uncontrollable violence. Our inner cities are breeding grounds for rioting, gang violence, murder, substance abuse, poverty, illiteracy, teenage pregnancy and increasing misery of every sort.

Tragically, Britain and America have mostly *failed* in God’s purpose for them of being a blessing and good ex-

ample to other nations. Moral debasement and a rejection of God by far too many have exacted a huge toll. In this chapter, we will see how this has happened to the English-speaking people and why God is going to have to violently shake us out of our evil ways.

“Too Privileged”?

The American author, John Steinbeck (1902-1968), once said, “IF I WANTED TO DESTROY A NATION, I WOULD GIVE IT TOO MUCH AND I WOULD [EVENTUALLY] HAVE IT ON ITS KNEES, MISERABLE, GREEDY AND SICK.” Compared with the hundreds of millions impoverished human beings lacking adequate food, many Americans, Britons, Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders are overfed and overweight! Have we been so blessed that we have taken these God-given blessings for granted? Have we been too blessed for our own good?

Japan’s late Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka once said, “I often wonder why you [Americans] worry so much about domestic problems when you have such an abundance of resources. For example, look at American agricultural productivity. It’s easy for the U.S. to expand its output whenever it chooses. We can’t do that in Japan. When I compare the situation here in Japan with the situation in your country, I THINK THAT AS A NATION YOU ARE TOO PRIVILEGED.... God has *not* been very fair in the distribution of resources.... Americans have the most stable economy, they have an abundance of resources available within their own country, and they have more investments abroad than any other country” (*U.S. News & World Report*, Nov. 26, 1973).

Have we, indeed, been “too privileged”? As we read in the previous chapter, it is God’s prerogative, as the Creator and Possessor of Heaven and Earth, to distribute resources to whomever He wills—to fulfill His supreme purpose. But

we, the recipients of the fabulous birthright blessings, need to always appreciate them, giving Almighty God thanks for everything we have, remembering that “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17). Yet we Anglo-Americans have not always kept this important fact in mind.

“We Have Forgotten God”

President Abraham Lincoln eloquently summarized our forgetful attitude as the American Civil War raged: “We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. BUT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD. WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THE GRACIOUS HAND WHICH PRESERVED US IN PEACE AND MULTIPLIED AND ENRICHED AND STRENGTHENED US, AND WE HAVE VAINLY IMAGINED, IN THE DECEITFULNESS OF OUR HEARTS, THAT ALL THESE BLESSINGS WERE PRODUCED BY SOME SUPERIOR WISDOM AND VIRTUE OF OUR OWN.

“Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of [God’s] redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!” (Proclamation, March 30, 1863).

God even foresaw this mindset—and warned Israel against it: “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied... your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God.... Then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth’” (Deut. 8:11-14, 17).

How does God answer this? “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers.... If you by any means forget the LORD your God... I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish” (v. 18-19). But, frighteningly, this is exactly what most of our people HAVE done! Surely national destruction cannot be far behind.

God’s prophecies reveal a *broken* and *devastated* Israel at the very end of this age—sorely punished for forgetting and rebelling against God. “Indeed all the nations will wonder, ‘Why has the LORD done thus to this land? What caused this great display of anger?’ They will conclude, ‘It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their ancestors’” (Deut. 29:24-25 NRSV).

Frankly, then, we have only ourselves to blame. In President Lincoln’s solemn words, “IF DANGER EVER REACHES US IT MUST SPRING UP AMONGST US. IT CANNOT COME FROM ABROAD. IF DESTRUCTION BE OUR LOT, WE MUST OURSELVES BE ITS AUTHOR AND FINISHER.” He was right! It is our grievous national sins that separate us from God (Isa. 59:1-2) and that will lead to our demise!

If Israel had continued to worship and obey God, it would have become a model nation for all the other nations to follow. Moses made this point clear: “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live... for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the people who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us.... And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?” (Deut. 4:1, 6:8).

Yet notice what would happen if the Israelites *betrayed* their special relationship with God: “O children of Israel...

‘You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities’” (Amos 3:1-2). God believes in accountability! “But they [the Israelites] rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them” (Isa. 63:10). What a frightening thing it is when we make God—the most powerful Being in the universe—our enemy!

During the Korean War, on December 12, 1951, General Douglas MacArthur alerted his fellow Americans: “In this day of gathering storm, as the moral deterioration... spreads its infection... it is essential that every spiritual force be mobilized to defend and preserve the religious base upon which this nation was founded. For it is that base which has been the motivating impulse to our moral and national growth.

“HISTORY FAILS TO RECORD A SINGLE PRECEDENT IN WHICH NATIONS SUBJECT TO MORAL DECAY HAVE NOT PASSED INTO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DECLINE. THERE HAS BEEN EITHER A SPIRITUAL REAWAKENING TO OVERCOME THE MORAL LAPSE, OR A PROGRESSIVE DETERIORATION LEADING TO ULTIMATE NATIONAL DISASTER” (*A Soldier Speaks*, p. 285-286). As horrible as it is to contemplate, this is exactly where America and Britain are heading!

“I Will Break the Pride of Your Power!”

Remember from chapter two that Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 outline blessings for Israel’s obedience to God and curses for disobedience. These were not for Old Testament times only!

Some believe that, because God divorced ancient Israel (Jer. 3:8) and because the Old Covenant marriage ended with Christ’s death, God no longer deals with His physical people based on these principles. While the Husband/wife relationship based on the Sinai covenant has ended between

God and physical Israel, the God/people relationship based on much *earlier* promises to Abraham has certainly NOT ended! The conditional prophecies of blessings and curses were not the Old Covenant itself. Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 simply express how God would deal with His physical people—even today!

Through Moses, God solemnly promised the Israelites that if they obeyed Him, He would bless them and their descendants in their cities and countryside. They would be given peace, prosperity, overflowing happiness and every blessing imaginable! This included unquestioned military supremacy: “You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. Five of you shall chase a hundred, a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight” (Lev. 26:7-8).

But if they flagrantly broke God’s covenant, His laws and statutes, then God Almighty said He would remove those blessings and punish them for their unfaithfulness. They would have drought, crop failures, famine and pestilence. Foreigners would rise up very high above them. Then they would be destroyed as a nation (Deut. 28:45).

Moreover, God warns: “But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments... but break my covenant, I will do this to you: I will even appoint *terror* over you, wasting disease and fever.... I will set my face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then.... I WILL BREAK THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER” (Lev. 26:14-19). Not only did this apply to *ancient* Israel—it also applies to *modern* Israel—the Anglo-Saxon-Celts (Deut. 28:46)!

Have we witnessed *warning signals* that our power is already being broken? Many claim that Britain has been reduced to a “fourth-rate-power.” And has America *lost the will to win*? When we fought North Korea, along with our

U.N. allies, we reached a *stalemate*. When we fought North Vietnam, our soldiers never lost a major military engagement. But politics and public scorn forced us to shamefully crawl out of that war-torn country on our bellies. Of course, we Anglo-Americans have won a few police actions against such tiny countries as Grenada, the Falkland Islands and Panama.

More recently, we and our allies fought Iraq in the Persian Gulf War. Early in the conflict, U.S. President George Bush called on all Americans to pray to God for divine help and the safety of our men. It is striking that there were remarkably few losses! President Bush responded admirably to this outcome by again calling on Americans to pray—this time to *thank* God for answering the nation’s prayers.

However, in general our people have *not* truly turned to God in heartfelt repentance—rejecting their sinful ways and embracing God’s commandments. Thus, the pride we had in our military power continues to be broken. In fact, even though we *could* have vanquished Iraq, totally eliminating the threat it posed to our national interests, we stopped short of marching in and deposing the “Butcher of Baghdad.” (It remained for President Bush’s son to finish the job many years later in a very costly and unpopular war.)

The Coming “Great Tribulation”

One of the most detailed prophecies in the Bible is found in Jeremiah 31-32. The Prophet Jeremiah wrote over 100 years AFTER the northern Ten Tribes of Israel were taken captive in 722 B.C. Therefore his prophecies couldn’t *possibly* refer to ancient Israel *prior* to that time. (That would be like a prophet today “foretelling” the American Civil War.) Jeremiah’s prophecies can only refer to the end time—our day! They are addressed to both “Israel AND

Judah” (Jer. 30:4), meaning both the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people and our kinsmen, the Jews.

Jeremiah writes, “For thus says the LORD: ‘We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? ALAS! FOR THAT DAY IS GREAT, SO THAT NONE IS LIKE IT; AND IT IS THE TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE, but [after going through it] he shall be saved out of it’” (v. 5-7).

The Prophet Daniel, who wrote his prophecies even *later* than Jeremiah, also mentions a time of trouble for Israel “*at the time of the end*” (Dan. 11:40). “*At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince [“the archangel” Moffatt] who stands watch over the sons of your people [Jacob’s descendants]; and THERE SHALL BE A TIME OF TROUBLE, SUCH AS NEVER WAS SINCE THERE WAS A NATION, EVEN TO THAT TIME. And at that time [after enduring this horrible “trouble”], your people shall be delivered*” (12:1).

In Matthew 24, Jesus Christ spoke of what could *only* be the same traumatic time of unprecedented worldwide human suffering: “FOR THEN THERE WILL BE GREAT TRIBULATION [GREEK, THLIPSIS MEGALE, “MEGA-MISERY”], SUCH AS HAS NOT BEEN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD UNTIL THIS TIME, NO, NOR EVER SHALL BE” (v. 21). “IN FACT, UNLESS THOSE DAYS ARE SHORTENED, ALL MANKIND WILL PERISH. But they *will* be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen people [i.e. the sake of those who genuinely turn to God in repentant obedience and faith]” (v. 22 LB). Only in our modern age—with the proliferation of nuclear weaponry—has it been possible that if a great conflict were not halted, “all mankind would perish.”

Christ said, concerning this Great Tribulation, “For it will come as a *snare* on all those who dwell on the face of the *whole earth*” (Luke 21:35). Yet Jesus has promised those who remain faithful to Him, “Because you have kept

my word of patient endurance, I will keep you from THE HOUR OF TRIAL [TRIBULATION] WHICH IS COMING ON THE WHOLE WORLD to test the inhabitants of the earth” (Rev. 3:10 NRSV)!

When we put these verses together, we see that ALL of them refer unmistakably to the *same time*. There cannot be more than one worst time ever! These passages describe a *unique* time in man’s history—a time of great trouble so traumatic that no other period in the entire history of the earth will have ever been so bad. In all the bloodstained, awful history of humanity, *never* has humanity experienced the intensity of horrors prophesied to come on a global scale.

The Prophet Ezekiel, writing between the times of Jeremiah and Daniel—over 100 years after the Ten Tribes went into Assyrian captivity—*also* mentioned this unparalleled time of Jacob’s trouble. God, in Ezekiel 5, tells modern Israel, “Because you have multiplied disobedience more than the nations that are all around you, and have not walked in My statutes, nor kept My judgments... I, even I, am against you and will execute judgments in your midst.... AND I WILL DO AMONG YOU WHAT I HAVE NEVER DONE, AND THE LIKE OF WHICH I WILL NEVER DO AGAIN” (v. 7-9).

But *why* would a loving God allow such a terrible calamity to befall His people? “A disaster, a singular disaster; behold, it has come!... Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land; the time has come, a day of trouble [the Great Tribulation] is near, and not of rejoicing.... Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, and spend My anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations.

“My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will repay you according to your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst. Then you will know that I am the LORD who strikes” (Ezek. 7:5, 7-9). Idolatry, sorcery, violence,

murder, adultery, incest and homosexuality and numerous other loathsome acts are all “abominations” in the eyes of *God*.

But in the eyes of our *society*, homosexuality is accepted as a “lifestyle choice”—even with signs held aloft at parades for “gay pride” with blasphemous slogans such as, “God is gay!” God will not let such wickedness go unpunished (Gen. 19; Lev. 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rom. 1:24-28). Also, the murder of countless millions of innocent unborn children (i.e. “legalized” abortion) is a terrible blot on the Anglo-American national conscience (Num. 35:33; Ezek. 7:23; Isa. 59:3). Rest assured—God is going to repay our people for such great evil!

Shamefully, the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people are flagrantly breaking God’s laws—committing not only religious crimes such as idolatry and Sabbath breaking (Ezek. 20:12-24; Ex. 20:1-17; Isa. 59:1-15), but also many heinous sins and perversions.

Horriying World War III!

In Ezekiel 5, the Almighty describes future pestilence, famine and warfare on an almost unimaginable scale: “ONE-THIRD of you shall die of the *pestilence* [disease epidemics], and be consumed with *famine* in your midst; and ONE-THIRD shall fall by the *sword* [warfare] all around you; and I will scatter ANOTHER THIRD [the remaining third] to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them. Thus shall My anger be spent, and I will cause My fury to rest upon them, and I will be avenged; and they shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it in My zeal, when I have spent My fury upon them” (v. 12-13).

What a staggering death toll! IF ONE-THIRD OF OUR PEOPLE DIE OF DISEASE AND FAMINE, AND ONE-THIRD DIE BY WAR, THIS WOULD MEAN THE DEATHS OF A FEW HUNDRED MILLION MODERN ISRAELITES! And then later, at least ONE-

THIRD of all mankind in general will die during the terrible coming crises at the close of this age (Rev. 6:8, 9:18), RESULTING IN THE DEATHS OF OVER TWO BILLION PEOPLE! Such awful, nightmarish destruction could happen only by a horrifying World War III!

At the time when the Anglo-Americans have become, among other nations, “like a lion among the beasts of the forest” with all our enemies “cut off” (Micah 5:8-9), God says that, because of our skyrocketing sins and crimes, He will bring sudden destruction upon us—giving us over to crushing defeat at the hands of a cruel enemy! The very next verses in Micah make this quite clear: “And it shall be *in that day*... that I will cut off your horses from your midst and destroy your chariots [tanks, artillery, armored cars].

“I WILL CUT OFF THE CITIES OF YOUR LAND AND THROW DOWN ALL YOUR STRONGHOLDS [military installations]. I will cut off sorceries from you hand, and you shall have no soothsayers [no more psychic phone hotlines!]. Your carved images [which fill our churches and religious shrines] I will also cut off.... You shall no more worship the work of your hands.... *Thus I will destroy your cities*” (v. 10-14)!

How will this happen? Ezekiel 6:6-7 makes it even more plain: “IN ALL YOUR DWELLING PLACES THE CITIES SHALL BE LAID WASTE.... The slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the LORD.” This *never* happened in the destruction of ancient Israel—it *must* refer to a time soon coming! What, then, is meant here? Think about it: cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto, Montreal, London, Glasgow, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland—ALL LAID WASTE!

Coupled with Christ’s remark that “all mankind would perish” if God didn’t intervene (Mat. 24:22 LB), this almost certainly indicates horrible nuclear warfare or some other advanced method of mass destruction. It is a terrifying fact that man has never invented a weapon he has not

later used. Missiles packing multiple nuclear warheads will, more than likely, prove to be no exception.

In the aftermath of the coming conflagration, a lack of sustenance will produce ghastly consequences: “I will let loose the sword of war on you, in punishment *for your breach of compact*, and you shall huddle inside your towns; I will send pestilence among you, and you shall fall into the hands of an enemy. When I deprive you of the bread that sustains you, ten of your women will need but one oven for their baking, and your bread shall be doled out in rations, till you never have enough to eat. If all this will not make you listen to Me, if you continue to defy Me, then I will defy you in My fury.... YOU SHALL BE FORCED TO EAT THE FLESH OF YOUR SONS AND OF YOUR DAUGHTERS” (Lev. 26:25-29 Moffatt).

The starving, emaciated descendants of modern Israel (the Anglo-Americans) will even stoop to CANNIBALISM! Ezekiel also prophesied this tragic condition: “*Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers*” (Ezek. 5:10). The Word of God relates the gory details of this vile episode in Deuteronomy 28:53-57 (which is too sickening to quote here!).

National Captivity—Again?

Correction from God is absolutely necessary. Just as any loving parent will sometimes discipline his or her children for their ultimate good, so it is with God (Heb. 12:5-11). Our merciful God promises, “Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you [Israel’s countries today], yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished” (Jer. 30:11). The United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand—all of these political entities will disappear from history. But, as with the ancient Kingdom of Israel, the citizenry of these coun-

tries will not be completely wiped out (Amos 9:8-9). What will happen to those who are *not* destroyed?

As we saw in Ezekiel, though *two-thirds* of modern Israelites will die by war, disease and famine, *another third* will be SCATTERED. How will this be accomplished? God says, “Yet I will leave a *remnant*, so that you may have some who escape the sword among the nations, when you are scattered through the countries. Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are CARRIED CAPTIVE” (Ezek. 6:8-9).

“Carried captive”? Many contend that Ezekiel, himself a Jewish exile in Babylonian captivity, was writing here about the *Jews*. That is simply not so. God told him to direct his words to the “mountains [prophetic symbol for *nations*] of ISRAEL” (Ezek. 6:3). When shown this, many then conclude that these words refer to *ancient* Israel’s Assyrian captivity. But could that be so? No—for, as mentioned previously, Ezekiel wrote his prophecies over a hundred years AFTER that captivity. Thus God, through Ezekiel, was here referring to a yet *future* captivity and deportation IN OUR DAY!

The Almighty tells our people, “I will scatter you [as He did the Ten Tribes in the 700’s B.C.] among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste.... YOU SHALL PERISH AMONG THE NATIONS, AND THE LAND OF YOUR ENEMIES SHALL EAT YOU UP. AND THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE LEFT SHALL WASTE AWAY IN THEIR INIQUITY IN YOUR ENEMIES’ LANDS” (Lev. 26:33, 38-39). How very similar to the concentration camps of Nazi Germany!

In Jeremiah’s prophecy, God explains the nature of the coming captivity which Israel *and* Judah will yet be led out of (something that has NEVER happened before): “For behold, the days are coming... that I WILL BRING BACK FROM CAPTIVITY MY PEOPLE ISRAEL *and* JUDAH” (Jer. 30:3). In ancient times, Israel’s captivity (722 B.C.) occurred 120

years *before* Judah's captivity (602 B.C). But, during "Jacob's Trouble," the captivity of Israel and Judah will occur *simultaneously*.

What will God be delivering them from? "For it shall come to pass in that day... that I WILL BREAK HIS *yoke* FROM YOUR NECK, AND WILL BURST YOUR *bonds*; FOREIGNERS SHALL NO MORE *enslave* THEM" (Jer. 30:8). When Britons sing "Rule Britannia," they boast that "Britons never will be slaves!" But, despite those lyrics, modern *Britons, and Americans too, will be herded into slavery*—scattered over the globe to work in their captors' mines, factories, fields, etc.

Prophecy reveals that, during the coming, horrendous World War III, both the Anglo-Americans AND the Jews will suffer *together* at the hands of the coming "Beast" (Rev. 13, 17, 19)—God's name for a revival of sorts of the Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages in a ten-nation (or ten groups of nations) European power bloc (this name is used for its leader as well). This system is also referred to as "Babylon" (Isa. 47; Rev. 18). Even as you read these words, this coming political, economic and religious super-power is forming in Europe under the auspices of the European Union. Other prophecies show that *Germany* will provide its dynamic heart.

Israel's captivity will be an awful time of unparalleled suffering, during which the vast majority of modern Israel will die. Isaiah wrote: "then I said, 'Lord, how long will it be before they are ready to listen?' And He replied, 'Not until their cities are destroyed—without a person left—and the whole country is an utter wasteland, and they are all taken away as *slaves* to other countries far away, and all the land of Israel lies deserted! YET A TENTH—A REMNANT—WILL SURVIVE; and though Israel is invaded again and again and destroyed, yet Israel will be like a tree cut down, whose stump still lives to grow again'" (Isa. 6:11-13 Living Bible).

Think of it! Of the millions of scattered Israelites taken into captivity, only a mere fraction will survive! How might this happen? Are you, the reader, aware that the Nazi gas chambers and ovens of Auschwitz, Dachau, Bergen-Belsen, Treblinka, etc.—by which millions of Jews, Slavs and others were slaughtered during the Second World War—have NOT been dismantled? They stand right now as monuments of great human atrocities. Yet they could be put back into frightening service almost overnight! All of this should *shake* us out of lethargy!

After Calamity—the “Good News”!

Will the Israelites finally heed God after suffering the Great Tribulation? God says, “If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me... and that I also have... brought them into the land of their enemies... if [they]... are humbled, and they accept their guilt—then I will remember My covenant with Jacob... with Isaac and... with Abraham.... [The Israelites] will accept their guilt, because they despised My judgments and because their soul abhorred My statutes.

“Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, *I will not cast them away*, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt, in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD” (Lev. 26:40-45).

This will indeed happen! Our Anglo-American people will eventually come to their senses and bitterly cry out to God when He allows our plight to become desperate! Jeremiah quotes God as saying, “In those days and in that time... the children of ISRAEL shall come, they and the children of JUDAH together; with continual weeping they

shall come, and seek the LORD God. They shall ask the way to Zion... saying, ‘Come and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that will not be forgotten’” (Jer. 50:4-5).

Our people will say, “Come, and let us RETURN to the LORD; for He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days [speaking prophetically, each day equals one year—Num. 14:34; Ezek. 4:6] He will revive us; on the third day [year] He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight” (Hos. 6:1-2)! Ancient Israel’s bondage lasted many years, but *modern* Israel’s enslavement will apparently only last about two and a half years (yet, as we’ve seen, it will be *far worse*).

Following this, repentant Israelites will be SPARED the *next* year—“the day of the LORD,” mentioned over and over in the Scriptures—in which God will discipline ALL nations! At the end of that year, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, will at last return to earth in all power and glory to establish His peaceful Kingdom over all nations for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-4; Dan. 2:44). At that same time, Christ will destroy the “Beast” and “the false prophet” (Zech. 14; Rev. 19), who will have put a “yoke of bondage” on the neck of modern Israel (Isa. 47:1-6).

Notice what Isaiah prophesied: “It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD shall set His hand again the *second time* to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria [Greater Germany] and Egypt... and the islands of the sea [British Isles, New Zealand, etc.]. He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of *Israel*, AND gather together the dispersed of *Judah* from the four corners of the earth” (Isa. 11:11-12). Isaiah is describing a SECOND EXODUS! Also note that, at the time of the end, Israel and Judah will still be TWO SEPARATE IDENTIFIABLE people. The prophet continues, “For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel,

and settle them in their own land [the Promised Land]” (Isa. 14:1).

Who will lead this return and restore the Twelve Tribes to God’s favor? Through Isaiah, the Messiah states, “And now the LORD says, who formed Me [Christ] from the womb to be His Servant, to *bring Jacob back* to Him, so that Israel is gathered to Him.... ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth’” (Isa. 49:5-7).

Israel’s Family Reunion

In the wonderful world to come, when the Jews and continental Northwest Europeans have finally learned their own true identities, they will at last recognize the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people of America and Britain as their long lost brother Joseph. With great tears of joy, they will again shout, “Joseph is alive!”—just as the sons of Israel did almost 3,700 years ago. What a great and marvelous family reunion that will be!

Then, God Almighty will again unite the Anglo-Saxon-Celts with the Jews as one people (Ezek. 37:15-17). He says, “SURELY I WILL TAKE THE STICK OF JOSEPH, WHICH IS IN THE HAND OF EPHRAIM, AND THE TRIBES OF *Israel*, HIS COMPANIONS; AND I WILL JOIN THEM WITH IT, WITH THE STICK OF *Judah*, AND MAKE THEM ONE STICK, AND THEY WILL BE ONE IN MY HAND....

“Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone [into captivity], and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them *one nation* in the land.... THEY SHALL NO LONGER BE TWO NATIONS, NOR SHALL THEY EVER BE DIVIDED INTO TWO KINGDOMS AGAIN” (Ezek. 37: 19, 21-22).

Ezekiel 48 reveals that all the Twelve Tribes will then be reassigned their own tribal allotments in the Promised Land—which will be much bigger in area than in biblical days. This will, at first, accommodate the millions of Israelites returning from captivity.

But remember what God told Israel would soon happen at that time: “The children you will have, after you have lost the others [in the Great Tribulation], will say again in your ears [as they did in Great Britain before], ‘The place is *too small* for me; give me a place where I may dwell’” (Isa. 49:20). So what will God do? “Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob; Israel shall blossom and bud, and *fill the face of the world* with fruit” (Isa. 27:6).

At the time when God gathers the remnant of Jacob, He will make a “perpetual covenant” with both Israel and Judah: “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH.... I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.... For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more” (Jer. 31:31, 33-34). After being converted by God’s Spirit, Israel will finally stop rebelling against Him!

Some people think that God has abandoned His purpose for the physical descendants of Israel. That is totally false! God promises, “If those ordinances [of the sun and moon] depart from before Me... *then* the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever” (Jer. 31:36). He also adds, “If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the LORD” (Jer. 31:37).

Through Jeremiah, God clearly prophesied, “If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, *then* I will cast away the descendants of Jacob.... For I will cause their

captives to return, and will have mercy on them” (Jer. 33:25-26).

Look at what the Apostle Paul stated in the *New Testament*: “I SAY THEN, HAS GOD CAST AWAY HIS PEOPLE? CERTAINLY NOT! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has *not* cast away His people whom He foreknew” (Rom. 11:1-2). Paul shows that God will yet save Israel’s physical descendants. “And so all Israel shall be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins’” (Rom. 11:26-27).

This is a prophecy for the *future*. Presently, God has ordained that He will call both physical Israelites as well as Gentiles into His Church: “I say then, have they [the Israelites] stumbled that they should fall [“beyond recovery” NIV]? Certainly not! But through their fall [“transgression” NIV], to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!” (Rom. 11:11-12).

This is profound! Spiritual salvation has been opened to some Gentiles now to prod Israel to look at her own condition and start obeying God. In this way, Israel’s failure has been a blessing to many Gentiles. Yet how much *greater* will the blessing for the Gentile nations be when Israel learns to finally set the example God intended from the beginning? ISRAEL WILL YET BE THE WONDERFUL MODEL NATION GOD MEANT HER TO BE ALL ALONG. THIS IS TRULY INCREDIBLE!

For Gentiles Too!

But God loves all people (John 3:16)—not just Israelites! He has no favorites and is just to all people—Gentiles and Israelites alike (Acts 10:34-35). How, then, do the Gen-

tiles co-inherit the vast riches and wealth, both *physical* and *spiritual*, which was promised to the ISRAELITES? Paul reveals more of this “mystery” by saying, “Those who are the children of the flesh, these are NOT the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed [of Abraham]” (Rom. 9:8).

Clearly, all of God’s covenants and promises were given to Israel, and the only way Gentiles can partake of those promises is by them being grafted spiritually “into a good olive tree” (Israel), thereby becoming partakers of the fabulous riches which Almighty God promised the Israelites (Rom. 11:15, 17-21).

Paul also explained this mystery to the Christians at Ephesus, who were Gentiles: “Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:11-12)! But the apostle does not stop there. “Now, therefore, YOU ARE NO LONGER STRANGERS AND FOREIGNERS, BUT FELLOW CITIZENS WITH THE SAINTS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD” (Eph. 2:19).

He told the Gentile converts of Galatia, “For you are all *sons of God* through faith in Christ Jesus.... There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all *one* in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are *Abraham’s seed*, and heirs according to the promise” (Gal. 3:26, 28-29).

God’s Old Testament “Church” was a nation of physical, carnal-minded people who, as a group, never had God’s Holy Spirit within them to empower them to do His will. But God’s New Testament Church—the “Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16)—is composed of *only* those who repent of their sins, receive His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) and “keep the

commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 12:17).

THE NEW TESTAMENT “CHURCH OF GOD” INCLUDES PEOPLE OF ALL RACES! But it is a serious mistake to assume that true Christianity is a “Gentile” religion. Paul explained that this was not so (Rom. 9:3-4; 11:16-24). He told the Gentile Christians at Rome, “For he is not a real Jew who is one outwardly, nor is true circumcision something external and physical. *He is a Jew who is one inwardly*, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart, spiritual and not literal” (Rom. 2:28-29 RSV). Everyone must become a *spiritual Jew*.

Paul told the Ephesians, “But now in Christ Jesus you [Gentiles] who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ” (Eph. 2:13). “For through Him we *both* [Jews and Gentiles] have access by one Spirit to the Father” (v. 18). With God’s Spirit in us, we, as *spiritual* Israel can succeed where *physical* Israel has not.

THE MAIN LESSON OF ISRAEL IS ONE OF UTTER *failure* WITHOUT GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT! God gave the Israelites *everything*. Yet they just could not keep His law. By the *New Covenant*, Israel will finally be given the spiritual POWER to actually obey God and His law “in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). But if you, the reader, have begun to understand the importance of submitting your life to God and obeying Him totally, you don’t have to *wait* until then! You can partake of the New Covenant’s terms right now (Heb. 8:1-13).

But you need to realize that you *can’t* do it alone. To truly obey God with all your being, it takes Jesus Christ, as your *personal Savior*, living in you through the power of the Spirit of God (Col. 1:27; Gal. 2:20). How do you receive that blessing? By deeply REPENTING before God of breaking His spiritual laws, accepting in FAITH the tremendous sacrifice of Jesus Christ as payment for your sins, being BAPTIZED and then receiving the priceless gift of God’s HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 2:38-39).

This is how to become a *spiritual* Israelite (Gal. 6:16) and partake of the New Covenant's terms right now. It doesn't matter whether you are a *physical* Israelite or not. All humanity desperately NEEDS God's Holy Spirit—to OBEY Him and, thus, truly WORSHIP Him. *This* is what God desires from you—and, more importantly, FOR you!

Epilogue

IT IS easy to dismiss *truth* out of hand or even ridicule it. But, as has often been noted, “Facts are stubborn things!” The “Man of the 20th Century,” Winston Churchill, wisely observed that “*Truth* is incontrovertible. *Panic* may resent it; *ignorance* may deride it; *malice* may distort it; but THERE IT IS!”

He later said, “Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened” (*International Encyclopedia of Quotations*). You have somehow stumbled across the irrefutable truth concerning what happened to the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. Will you, like many, simply *ignore* it?

As we’ve seen, our people *will* learn to live righteously after Jesus Christ returns. But, as we’ve *also* seen, a lot of horrible agony must precede that joyous time. Why? Because of the awful spiritual condition of our people.

God told Ezekiel to make an announcement to Israel—which must refer to the modern people of Israel since Ezekiel wrote long after Israel’s *ancient* destruction. Here, then, by the authority of God Almighty, we announce His message to *you*. The wording in the Living Bible makes it easy to follow: “Tell Israel, wherever you look—east, west, north or south—your land is finished. No hope remains, for I will loose My anger on you.... With one blow after another I will finish you. The end has come; your final doom is waiting.

“O Israel... the day of trouble nears. It is a day of shouts of anguish, not shouts of joy! Soon I will pour out My fury and let it finish its work of punishing you for all your evil deeds. I will not spare nor pity you, and you will know that I, the Lord, am doing it. The day of judgment has come... for your wickedness and pride have reached their climax.... All your boasting will die away, and no one will be left to bewail your fate” (Ezek. 7:2-11).

Whatever your ethnic origin, if you have lived among the descendants of modern Israel, *enjoying* with them their God-given material and spiritual blessings, then—barring repentance—you will also *suffer* with them when their punishment for disobedience comes!

Of course, if our nations would change their ways, God always stands ready to forgive: “The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, IF THAT NATION AGAINST WHOM I HAVE SPOKEN TURNS FROM ITS EVIL, I WILL RELENT OF THE DISASTER THAT I THOUGHT TO BRING UPON IT” (Jer. 18:6-8)!

Which way will our people go? Will they continue in unspeakable sins and rampant crimes, plunging headlong into the impending abyss? Or will they *repent* of their waywardness—“to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with... God” (Micah 6:8)? God tells our people what they must do: “Ask where the *good road* is, the *godly paths* you used to walk in, in the days of long ago. Travel *there*, and you will find rest for your souls” (Jer. 6:16 LB).

However, He knows all too well what to *expect* from our people, as He relates immediately following: “But you reply, ‘No, that is *not* the road we want!’ I SET WATCHMEN OVER YOU WHO WARNED YOU: ‘Listen for the sound of the trumpet! It will let you know when trouble comes.’ BUT YOU SAID, ‘NO! WE WON’T PAY ANY ATTENTION!’” (Jer. 6:16-17 LB). Will this, dear reader, be *your* response?

As a watchman I am obeying God's command to sound this "trumpet" warning. God tells us in Isaiah 58:1, "Cry aloud, spare not; LIFT UP YOUR VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." *The trumpet has now been blown!*

Though our nations AS A WHOLE are not likely to repent of their evil ways until they are greatly humbled by the awful events ahead, Jesus Christ promises to provide a shelter from the coming storm of violence for *individuals* who believe, and live by, the Word of God—whether Israelite *or* Gentile! This protection for God's faithful children is promised in Revelation 3:10 and 12:13-17. Jesus also warns us, "Watch... and pray always that you may be counted worthy to *escape* all these things" (Luke 21:36)!

President Calvin Coolidge once said, "We [Americans] do not need more material development, we need more *spiritual* development. We do not need more intellectual power, we need more *moral* power. We do not need more knowledge, we need more *character*... we need more [true] *religion*... more of the things that are unseen."

And former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, hit the nail on the head when he stated, "The greatest work in all the world is the building of men and women of *character*. Without character there is not much that's worthwhile, because character is the one thing we take with us from this world into the next" (*An Enemy Hath Done This*, p. 299).

These men may not have truly understood God's plan, but they certainly got an important KEY correct—the need to build *godly character*. By your seeking God NOW, individually, He can begin developing His holy, righteous character within you immediately—averting the need, *if* you remain faithful, for you to be SHAKEN out of your wrong ways through the horrible day of "Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7)!

The Jefferson Memorial stands on the south banks of the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C. Inscribed on its wall are these poignant words of Thomas Jefferson that still serve as a solemn warning to our American and British people: “GOD WHO GAVE US LIFE GAVE US LIBERTY. CAN THE LIBERTIES OF A NATION BE SECURE WHEN WE HAVE REMOVED A CONVICTION THAT THESE LIBERTIES ARE THE GIFT OF GOD? INDEED I TREMBLE FOR MY COUNTRY WHEN I REFLECT THAT GOD IS JUST, THAT HIS JUSTICE CANNOT SLEEP FOREVER!”

God Is Not Racist!

Countless millions have been tainted by attitudes of racial prejudice. Who is the author of racial bigotry? Is there any way to rid the earth of this curse?

“Racism... [is] a belief that... racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race... [or is defined as] racial prejudice or discrimination” (Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed.). Who is the real author of racial prejudice? The Bible reveals that God Almighty is *not* the author of racial bigotry. Rather, Satan the Devil is the author of hatred, murder, lies, bigotry and racism (see John 8:44). Satan wants all people to be divided by racial bigotry, and would like to get all races fighting one another. Conversely, the Great God loves all mankind and wants all men to be treated with consideration, respect and Christian love.

In 1976, Alex Haley published his book, *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*, giving the background of blacks in America. “*Roots* was adapted as a multi-episode television program, which, when broadcast in 1977, became one of the most popular shows in the history of American television... *Roots* spurred much interest in family trees [among blacks], and Haley created the Kinte Foundation to store records that aid in tracing back genealogy” (“Haley, Alex,” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1993). When *Roots* was televised, tens of millions of Americans (black and white) viewed it with great interest. Likewise, many white Americans also have a desire to know more about their ancient Anglo-Saxon-Celtic roots. It is perfectly natural and normal for people of whatever race to want to know more about their racial heritage.

Even the Apostle Paul stated, “For I also am an *Israelite*, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin” (Rom. 11:1). Was it wrong for Paul to want to know about his racial heritage? Didn’t Jesus think it important to pre-

serve His own genealogy, all the way back to Adam (Matt. 1:1-14; Luke 3:23-38)? On the other hand, knowing about one's *physical* descent is of *much less* importance than knowing about his *spiritual* lineage!

Individually, God does *not* judge us by the color of our skin or by physical appearances (John 7:24). "For the LORD does *not* see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but *the LORD looks at the heart*" (1 Sam. 16:7). The really important thing is to know that you are a true son or daughter of God (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13), being filled with, and led by, God's Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14). Christians must always put the major stress on our spiritual lineage directly to our Father in heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Bible nowhere says that God's people, the Israelites, were superior. But He did choose them to fulfill a *unique role* among the nations of this earth (Deut. 7:6-8). They were divinely chosen to serve as an *example* for the rest of humanity of what happens to those who obey or disobey the Creator God. As one Jewish man painfully remarked in the aftermath of World War II, "Why doesn't He choose someone else for a while?" The Israelites were to be the recipients of the covenant blessings which God Almighty promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but they've also been severely punished whenever they've flagrantly transgressed His covenant.

No *true* Christian should believe in or teach racism in any form, including "white supremacy" or "anti-Semitism." God calls Christians out of "*all* nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues" (Rev. 7:9)! The Bible teaches that people of *all* races are "offspring of God" (Acts 17:29)—with the potential to become glorified sons and daughters in the great Family of God (2 Cor. 6:17-18; Rev. 21:7)!

The Apostle Peter explained God's attitude toward racism this way: "In truth I perceive that *God shows no partiality*. But in EVERY NATION whoever fears Him and works

righteousness is accepted by Him” (Acts 10:34-35). The golden verse of the Bible assures us that God sacrificed His Son, Jesus Christ, for the benefit of *all* mankind: “For God so loved the world [every single human being] that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

The Bible reveals that racial harmony *will* be achieved in the soon-coming Kingdom of God (Zech. 8:20-23). Real peace between the races of this earth will only come when *all* races follow the “Prince of Peace” and His law of love (Isa. 9:6; 11:1-9; Rom. 13:10). God Almighty and His Son, Jesus Christ, are *not* racists. We must make sure that we aren’t either!

Isaac & Ishmael

The Arabs readily acknowledge Abraham's son Ishmael to be their father—as any one of them will tell you! God promised to make them “a great nation” (Gen. 17:20; 21:18). People might look at the Arab countries today and balk at this because—even though some of them are quite rich from oil exports—they are *not* a “great nation” now. They are fragmented. This isn't what God meant when He made this promise to Abraham. So is God unreliable? NO! Arab greatness has already passed. But in its heyday, it was truly remarkable to behold.

Louis L'Amour, the famous American author, described this period well. In his number one bestseller, *The Walking Drum*, set in 12th century Eurasia, he wrote, “In the space of one hundred years following the death of Mohammed in 632, the Arabs had carried the sword of Islam from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean, holding at one time most of Spain, part of southern France, the isle of Sicily, all of North Africa and Egypt, all of Arabia, the Holy Land, Armenia, Persia, Afghanistan, and almost a third of India. The empire of the Arabs was larger than that of Alexander the Great or of Rome.... Under the *flush of greatness*... for more than five hundred years the Arabs carried the torch of civilization” (Bantam Books, 1984, P. 171-172).

Now consider what this means for Isaac's descendants! If this is what God meant by Ishmael becoming a great nation—a vast empire, larger than Rome's, which preserved civilization through Europe's Dark Ages—then just think what must have been in store for *Isaac's* descendants, who were to inherit FAR GREATER BLESSINGS AND BECOME MANY NATIONS! Certainly, no one can argue that this has been fulfilled by the Jewish people—ever! Nor was it fulfilled anciently by Israel in the Holy Land. It's hard to even imagine that. So, then, was it ever fulfilled? YES! As pointed out throughout this book—God's promises to Isaac were in-

deed fulfilled through Isaac's descendants—the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people of today!

The “Diaspora”

Notice how James, the Lord’s half-brother, addressed his epistle around A.D. 60: “James, a servant of God and of... Jesus Christ, to the TWELVE TRIBES [not just the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin!] which are *scattered abroad* [Gk. DIASPORA, “dispersed”]” (James 1:1). James did *not* address his letter to *just* the Jews. Rather, he addressed his inspired letter to ALL the Israelites—“to the TWELVE TRIBES in the Dispersion” (same verse, NRSV and Moffatt Translation). The English translation of the original Aramaic text is as follows: “James... to the *twelve tribes* which are SCATTERED among the Gentiles.” The Goodspeed Bible renders this verse in a similar way: “James... to the *twelve tribes* that are SCATTERED over the world.”

The dispersed Jews are only *part* of the diaspora—only a *small portion* of the Israelite people whom God said He would disperse throughout all nations. Of course the diaspora would not be of the same nature for the Jews as for the other Israelites. The Jews were widely dispersed but never “lost,” whereas the Ten Tribes of Israel were both dispersed *and* later “lost” to the world in general!

Where were these Israelites of all Twelve Tribes—including the Ten Lost Tribes—living in New Testament times? The Apostle Peter gives us part of the answer to that question: “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Chris, to the pilgrims [“strangers” KJV] of the Dispersion [which were then] in PONTUS, GALATIA, CAPPADOCIA, ASIA, AND BITHYNIA, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father” (1 Pet. 1:1-2). These areas of dispersed Israelites *and* Jews were in what is today northern Turkey—showing a westward migration. There is abundant historical evidence to prove that *many* of the Ten Lost Tribes migrated even beyond this point in the centuries preceding Christ; but some of them still lingered here on the southern shores of the

Black Sea in the days of Christ and His apostles. This area was immediately west of the Caucasus Mountains and the Caspian Sea—along the land route from western Asia into Europe.

A Note About “Anglo-Israelism”

The biblical and historical facts presented in this book do *not* support much of what has been known, generally, as “Anglo-Israelism.”

“Anglo-Israelism,” generally speaking, equates the Ten Lost Tribes with the *English* people. However, this book has consistently mentioned that the *Anglo-Saxon-Celtic* people of Northwest Europe—*not* just the English (Anglos)—trace their ancestors’ footsteps back to the lands of their captivity in Southwest Asia. Furthermore, this book has shown from history that, today, the “Anglos” (i.e. English people) only make up, in actual fact, a minority of those Northwest European people who now constitute the Ten Lost Tribes.

In North America the *Celtic* people (Scots, Irish, Welsh, etc.) are more numerous than the English. Even in northwestern and southwestern England, many people are *not* descendants of either the Angles or the Saxons, but are of *Celtic* blood. It is also a fact that many of the British-descended people of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa trace their lineage back to Britain’s first permanent inhabitants, the Celts (who immigrated to the British Isles centuries before the time of Christ), rather than tracing their lineage to the Anglo-Saxons, who poured into eastern England in the fifth century A.D.

Some who embrace “Anglo-Israelism” look upon many (if not most!) of the Jews as being “Gentiles”—the descendants of Esau, the Canaanites or other non-Israelites such as the Khazars of Russia. BUT THAT SIMPLY IS *not* TRUE!

In addition, some who believe in Anglo-Israelism *wrongly teach* that many of the people of South Ireland are descendants of the ancient Canaanites, who descended from Noah’s son Ham. But there is nothing, either in the Bible or in secular history, to indicate this!

Many adherents of “Anglo-Israelism” have also believed that the British Empire, in its heyday, constituted the fifth world-ruling kingdom mentioned in the book of Daniel—which is obviously the KINGDOM OF GOD (Dan. 2:31-45; 7:3-28)! However, the Word of God reveals that the British Empire was *not* God’s Kingdom.

The Bible clearly teaches that the KINGDOM OF GOD will be made up of spirit-composed, immortal saints (*glorified* children of God, either by a “resurrection from the dead” or by instantaneous “change”—1 Thess. 4:13-17). The Bible plainly says that “flesh and blood [i.e. mortal humans] *cannot* inherit the KINGDOM OF GOD; nor does corruption inherit incorruption” (1 Cor. 15:50)!

And some who hold “Anglo-Israel” views teach that our Anglo-American people can never be conquered. BIBLE PROPHECY REVEALS OTHERWISE!

Let it, therefore, be made quite clear that THE IDEAS EXPRESSED IN THIS BOOK DO *not* REFLECT SUCH “ANGLO-ISRAELITE” VIEWS AS THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE!!

Divine Intervention During World War II

Remember how God sent Joseph to Egypt before the rest of his family “to preserve life.... and to save [their] lives by a great deliverance” (Gen. 45:5, 7)? The *descendants* of Joseph were used in a similar way in the 20th century. When the other Israelite nations of Northwest Europe were oppressed by the Nazi jackboot, it was primarily America and Britain—the sons of modern “Joseph”—who freed them. Of course, no one was as sorely afflicted during World War II as the Jews, the children of Judah, who were enduring Hitler’s “Final Solution”—the awful, genocidal Holocaust. After a hard, bitter struggle, Joseph’s descendants at long last broke through the German lines and came to the rescue of their brother Judah and the other Northwest European nations of Israel. And, even amid the horror of what had happened, there was great weeping and rejoicing at this wonderful deliverance in 1945. At no time has it been more true that “THE ARMS OF [JOSEPH’S] HANDS WERE MADE STRONG BY THE HANDS OF THE MIGHTY GOD OF JACOB” (Gen. 49:24) than during the Second World War. Were it not for the many instances of *divine intervention* in that conflict, the Axis Powers could have emerged victorious, plunging the entire world into a new “Dark Age.”

In the “Miracle of Dunkirk” (May 26–June 4, 1940) the trapped Allies could easily have been destroyed by Hitler’s army as they attempted to evacuate across the English Channel. But, inexplicably, unusual weather closed in. An extremely thick fog blanketed the area and the usually rough water of the Channel became so *calm* that even the smallest boats could sail on it without risk of capsizing. The fog grounded the Nazi airplanes which couldn’t effectively see their targets to bomb them—and Hitler gave a strange order for his tanks to halt their advance. So a motley flotilla of about 1,000 boats of every size and description evacuated over 338,000 Allied troops from the beaches

at Dunkirk. Hitler's strange order and the *God-sent weather* saved the day. Many among the Allies considered their escape from Dunkirk an instance of divine intervention! As Churchill later said, "WARS ARE NOT WON BY EVACUATIONS, BUT THERE WAS A VICTORY INSIDE THIS *deliverance*."

The Battle of Britain (June 20-Oct. 31), which soon followed, was *decisive* in saving Britain from Nazi invasion! Though severely pounded by German bombing, Britain rallied behind Churchill, and the British Royal Air Force eventually won the day against the German *Luftwaffe*. Britain's Chief Air Marshal, Sir Hugh Dowding, Commander-in-Chief of Fighter Command, gave God the credit: "I SAY WITH ABSOLUTE CONVICTION THAT I CAN TRACE THE *intervention of God*, not only in the battle itself, but in the events which led up to it, and that if it had not been for this intervention, the battle would have been joined in conditions which, humanly speaking, would have rendered victory impossible!"

In the first battle of El Alamein in July 1942, more than 1,000 Germans surrendered to the Allies due to extreme thirst caused by drinking salt water out of a British-laid pipeline—which, remarkably, would have been empty the day before—or full of *fresh* water two days later. According to British Major Peter Rainier, "For 1,100 of them [the Germans] to surrender when escape lay open—that was NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE!" ("A Drink That Made History," *Reader's Digest*). On October 31, 1942, during the final battle of El Alamein, a somber Churchill gave God full credit: "I HAVE A FEELING SOMETIMES THAT SOME GUIDING HAND HAS INTERFERED. I HAVE A FEELING THAT WE [BRITONS] HAVE A GUARDIAN."

On D-Day (June 6, 1944), the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy. Years later, the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces, American General Dwight D. Eisenhower, revealed what an agonizing decision he had been called upon to make when giving the green light to the in-

vation. He also said, “IF THERE WERE NOTHING ELSE IN MY LIFE TO PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF AN ALMIGHTY AND MERCIFUL GOD, THE EVENTS OF THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS DID IT!” D-Day was a great success!

Later that same year, American forces in the Pacific fought the powerful Japanese fleet in what became the world’s greatest sea battle—the battle of Leyte Gulf—on October 23-25. “Sprague [the U.S. force’s operational commander] was dumbfounded.... He had held his own against a fleet *many times* his superior.... His success was due, he wrote later, not simply to the tactics he had adopted but also to ‘THE DEFINITE PARTIALITY OF ALMIGHTY GOD’” (*The World at War*, p. 375). But it would take far more than this victory to defeat the Japanese—who were resolved to hold out to the last man if need be.

The Anglo-Americans—with the help of *Jewish* scientists fleeing Nazi persecution in Europe—won the *frenzied* race to build the atomic bomb. And, to avert the possible deaths of millions in a conventional invasion of Japan, President Truman ordered the new super weapon to be used. Churchill’s book, *The Second World War*, states “We seemed suddenly to have become possessed of a merciful abridgment of the slaughter in the East and of a far happier prospect in Europe. I have no doubt that these thoughts were present in the minds of my American friends. At any rate, there never was a moment’s discussion as to whether the atomic bomb should be used or not! TO AVERT A VAST, INDEFINITE BUTCHERY, TO BRING THE WAR TO AN END, TO GIVE PEACE TO THE WORLD, TO LAY HEALING HANDS UPON ITS TORTURED PEOPLES BY A MANIFESTATION OF OVERWHELMING POWER AT THE COST OF A FEW EXPLOSIONS, SEEMED, AFTER ALL OUR TOILS AND PERILS, *a miracle of deliverance*” (vol. 6, p. 553)!

Portrait of a Cruel Conqueror

Who would Israel's main enemy in the end time be? Moses predicted, "The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand" (Deut. 28:49). To fulfill this prophecy to Israel in *ancient* times, God used the Assyrians—with their symbol of the eagle. A number of prophecies show that, in the last days, God will use these same people to lead a ten-nation United States of Europe (or ten groups of nations) to capture and enslave *modern* Israel. In fact, modern Assyria will be the main land of our people's future captivity (Isa. 11:16; 27:13; Zech. 10:10).

Just who were the Assyrians—and who are they today? *Smith's Bible Dictionary* says, "Assyria... derived its name apparently from Asshur, the son of Shem, Gen. 10:22, who in later times was worshipped by the Assyrians as their chief god" ("Assyria, Asshur"). What happened to these people when their empire fell at the destruction of their capital city of Nineveh around 612 B.C.? Pliny the Elder (23-79 A.D.) located the "Assyriani" of his day north of the Crimea in Russia (*Historia Naturalis*, bk. 4, sec. 12).

So the Assyrians must have migrated north through the Caucasus Mountains just as the Cimmerians and some Scythians did. This would make them "Caucasian" too—which makes sense, considering their Shemite (white) ancestry. Where did they go from the Crimea? Jerome (Latin scholar, c. 340-420) later wrote, "Asshur also is joined with the tribes invading *Western Europe along the Rhine*" (Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Itr. 123, sec. 16). So their migratory route was similar to the Israelites—except the Assyrians *stopped* in Central Europe and settled "along the Rhine."

The names of some of Asshur's descendants also give some striking clues about the identity of the modern Assyr-

ians. Though not listed in the Bible, they can be found in numerous ancient histories and Bible encyclopedias. They include: Khatti; Akkadians; Kassites (or Cossaei); and Almani (or Halmani). Now notice the names of early *German* tribes in Europe: Hessians (anciently named Khatti—“Germany,” *Encyclopedia Britannica*); Quadians (Latin for Akkadians); the Chauci (same as the Cossaei); and the Al-lemani (Latin for Almani). THE SPANISH NAME FOR GERMANY IS STILL ALEMANIA (AND ITS FRENCH NAME IS ALLEMAGNE). Certainly we have identified the modern descendants of Asshur. They are the German-speaking people of Central Europe!

Now it is much easier to see how some of the Germans have been looked upon as Scythian-related by modern historians. They migrated from the same areas! Also we can better see how the language of the modern Scythians (Israelites) is Germanic (Assyrian)—they adopted the language of their captors!

Notice what God says about the sons of Asshur: “Woe to ASSYRIA, THE ROD OF MY ANGER and the staff in whose hand is My indignation. I will send him against an ungodly nation [Israel], and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Yet he does not mean so, nor does his heart think so; but IT IS IN HIS HEART TO DESTROY, AND CUT OFF NOT A FEW NATIONS” (Isa. 10:5-7). God is saying that He uses Assyria as His instrument of punishment upon Israel, but the Assyrians have other motives. Their only concern is destroying other people in a continual rage of imperial conquest. Haven’t we seen that in modern times too?

World Wars I and II were both primarily due to *German imperialism!* When Adolph Hitler stood before the great German eagle and cried for *lebensraum* (“living space!”), was that so different from the ways of ancient Assyria? “ITS IMPERIALISTIC ETHIC WAS EMBODIED IN THE

MIDDLE ASSYRIAN CORONATION RITUAL, IN WHICH THE OFFICIATING PRIEST SOLEMNLY CHARGED THE KING: ‘EXPAND YOUR LAND!’” (The *Oxford Companion to the Bible*, 1993, p. 63). There are many such parallels. The worship of their father Asshur is quite interesting. Perhaps it could explain why, instead of a “Mother Country,” the Germans exalt the “Fatherland.”

What kind of people were the ancient Assyrians? Their cruelty was renowned among the ancient conquering empires: “THEY WERE A PROUD, WARLIKE, AND CRUEL RACE. Although possessing genuine religious feeling, still the Assyrian monarchs often displayed in their treatment of prisoners THE DISPOSITION OF SAVAGES. The sculptured marbles taken from the palaces exhibit the *cruel tortures* inflicted upon prisoners; kings are being led before their conqueror with hooks thrust through their lips; other prisoners are being flayed alive; the eyes of some are being bored out with the point of a spear; and still others are having their tongues torn out” (Philip Meyers, *Eastern Nations and Greece*, 1904, p. 69-70). These are the conquerors whom God gave the Israelites over to!

Historian Will Durant writes, “Most often the prisoners [the Assyrians took in war]... were dispatched after the battle; they knelt with their backs to their captors, who beat their heads in with clubs, or cut them off with cutlasses.... The king, if time permitted, presided at the slaughter. The nobles among the defeated were given more special treatment: their ears, noses, hands and feet were sliced off, or they were thrown from high towers, or they and their children were beheaded, or flayed alive, or roasted over a slow fire. No compunction seems to have been felt at this waste of human life” (*Story of Civilization*, vol. 1, p. 271). Assyrian annals even boast of such cruelties.

Perhaps this conjures up images of the horrible torture experienced by the Jews and others in the Nazi Holocaust. *It should!* These national character traits have *not* disap-

peared—and they won't until after Christ returns to earth and sets up His Kingdom to rule over all nations. Then things *will* change: “In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, ‘Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance’” (Isa. 19:24). Then Assyrian nature will be changed through receiving God’s Spirit and His government!

That time, however, has not yet come. Many Britons still remember the Nazi-led horrors of World War II. Many still shudder at the thought of a revived, dynamic, militaristic Germany. Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher expressed this fear at the October 1995 Forum for International Policies in Colorado Springs. Speaking of Germany, she said, “HER NATIONAL CHARACTER IS TO DOMINATE. THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE CHARACTER OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE THAT LED TO THINGS THAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED. WHY WAS IT THAT THE GERMAN PEOPLE LET HITLER DO THE THINGS HE DID? THIS IS SOMETHING I STILL FEAR, EVEN TO THIS DAY”!

Yes, under the right circumstances, the cruel, warlike tendencies of these modern Assyrians can be coaxed to the surface *again*. And, you can be certain, they assuredly *will be!* A “Fourth Reich” will soon appear on the world scene under a *new* Hitler-type tyrant (or “Beast”). This German-led European power bloc will conquer the Anglo-American descendants of Israel and make them slaves!

Please understand! The Nazi Holocaust of World War II was merely a forerunner—a small “foretaste”—of a much worse fate yet to befall the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people and, again, our fellow kinsmen, the Jews! Bear in mind, too, that as the Great Tribulation will be the worst time our people have ever experienced, the *soon-coming* Assyrian-led captivity will make Israel’s ancient Assyrian captivity

seem like a walk in the park. Who will heed this warning?
Will YOU?

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