

Origins and Dispersions

A great deal of research has been done concerning the identities of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes of Israel”. These are not ethnic “Jews” and they never were. Much of the religious world is willfully unaware of the significance of these Ten Tribes and their prophesied place in the End of the Age.

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It should bewilder people today as to why there is so little real interest among Christians and particularly among Evangelicals in identifying where the Ten Tribes of Israel are today. Now, the Jews are known, their identity is clear, despite having been dispersed throughout the world over the centuries. So why is it that a vastly greater ethnic population has seemingly just ‘disappeared’?

Dismissing the Knowable

Why is it that people just don’t want to know, and will casually dismiss what is knowable? Well, there is a reason, it being perhaps one of many, and it has to do with the perceived obligation to keep the laws of God. It is believed that the Jews retain certain obligation, but Gentile peoples by and large do not.

There are some among the churchgoing genre who are aware of the difference, that not all Israelites are Jews, though all Jews are Israelites.

At one time, all of Israel was a single nation. That was the case for some 250 years. After the reign of King Solomon, the nation split,¹ with ten tribes opting to separate politically, with two remaining faithful to the dynasty of their former Kings David and Solomon. Ten tribes formed the northern kingdom retaining the name: House of Israel, while the two remaining tribes of the southern kingdom became known as the House of Judah. (See Ezekiel 37:)

Their National Captivities

After living adjacent to one another for some 200 years as separate nations, with separate dynasties and a somewhat different religious orientation,

the House of Israel was taken captive by the Assyrian Empire in about 721 BC. The people of the House of Israel were deported to the region north of Assyria, up against the Caucasus Mountains between the Black and Caspian Seas. They were never restored to their former homelands, even though Assyria was defeated as a world power after about a century in captivity.

On the other hand, the House of Judah (known by then as Jews) were also taken captive by Assyria’s successor empire: Babylon a century and a quarter later. The Jewish peoples were allowed to return to Jerusalem and their lands, but their greater contingent, the Israelite nation, was not. They remained living in the land of their captivity for the next nine centuries under the successor empires of Babylon, Persia and Greece.

A Nation in Place

After Alexander’s conquest of the Medo-Persian Empire, and after his untimely death, his empire was divided among his four generals, with the (former) “Assyrian” region being awarded to the Seleucids. It was after the Seleucids faded, following generations of wars with their southern counterpart, the Ptolemys, that Israelites gained control of the territory (greater Mesopotamia) becoming a preeminent nation themselves, a nation powerful enough to repulse the intrusion of Imperial Rome into their territories. They were known as the Parthians,² along with neighboring Scythia, both in large part being ethnic Israelites!

² In effect, the Parthians were the legitimate successors to the Seleucids, who were known as the “King of the North” in Daniel 11. The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire, became a world power in 247 B.C. Arsaces I, began its rise to dominance by conquering the northeast region of Iran. At the time of its conquest the province was in rebellion against the Seleucids.

¹ This split was God ordained. See 1st Kings 12:15 & 24.

Known in Christ's Day

Josephus in his day mentioned the Israelite's Ten Tribes populating greater Parthia and being located "...*beyond the Euphrates*" (Antiquities: Book 10, chapter 9, para.7) and they "... *are an immense multitude ... inestimable*"! (Ant: Bk 11, chpt. 5, para.2). In the first century it was known with certainty where the peoples of Israel were. They would still be found residing there for another two centuries! It was from there that the Magi sought out the newborn king, Jesus. ³

The Parthians / Scythians remained strong in the region until the early third century AD when they were defeated and driven north by the Sassanians (neo-Persians). In migrating from the region formerly known as 'Assyria', (tho' Assyria had been gone as a nation/empire for some 830 years by that time), they had to cross the Caucasus Mountain Range up into western Europe to circumvent the Roman Empire's territory. This migration was massive, and changed the ethnic complexion of Europe thereafter. It also placed the name "Caucasian" on the Europeans, as that's the region from which they'd come in great numbers!

Europe's Prior Populations

It's not that the various regions of Europe were uninhabited at that time. There were significant populations there previously. In fact, the Romans had great difficulty defeating the native northern peoples militarily (referring to them as Barbarians which meant something different then than the name infers today). Some of the peoples in the area were to known as Saxons, Saxones, Sachsen, Sacae, Saksen and similar variations of the name derived from Isaac. In other words, there were

³ Who were the Magi? (Short for Magistanes. Plural of Magus). The Magi were the astronomer-priests: a religious caste into which Zoroaster was born: Parthians who "... *held the dual position of being priest-like as well as holding government office which had an upper house of the council of the Magistanes, from which we get the word Magistrates. They were civil rulers with supposedly supernatural type wisdom and knowledge. One of their duties included 'the absolute choice and election of the king of the realm.'* (Their kings were not only hereditary – there was a controlling body) Their interest in Jesus' birth had to do with His potentially being in line to the Parthian throne.

populations in the area who were to some degree descendants of the Isaacson races: Kin to the Israelite Tribes.

Other prior inhabitants were ethnic 'Hebrews': The Iberians, Hibernians and others which have left their names indelibly in Europe (e.g. Spain and Scotland). Then, there's the story of the Prophet Jeremiah who migrated into Ireland with the king's daughters after the Assyrian captivity. They were welcomed by known tribes already there!

In fact, some of the House of Israel had already migrated throughout the Mediterranean region up into Europe in anticipation of the prophesied Assyrian invasion. Some ended up in Carthage (whose powerful navy blocked Rome from the western Mediterranean and from having access into the Atlantic), and of course, the limited numbers who were dispersed for other reasons.

A Different Reception

So, when migrating northward, then westward, they weren't treated to a 'military welcome' as were the Roman invaders, they were accommodated as long lost 'brothers', which they were!

Mis-Used Terminology

Churchgoers today casually apply a number of terms in general use when referring to the peoples of Israel. Some of the terms are:

Semites began with and named after the descendants of Shem, son of Noah, sometime after Abraham's time. These technically are any persons of the white race. (Semites today are thought to be only Jews).

Hebrews began with and are the carrying name of the descendants of Heber, (Eber), Abraham's g.g.g.g.grandfather. Hebrews are a much broader ethnicity than are usually considered. (Again they're thought to represent only Jewish people). Hebrews were known in Egypt before the time that Jacob and his entourage entered the land (Gen.10:5) long before there were any peoples known as Jews. Hebrews were known to be in Europe long before the Children of Israel were taken from their lands. The name Hebrew was

through the descendants of Shem. (Gen. 10:21)

Jews was a term that came into being years after the split with the northern Ten Tribes about 931 BC. The term “Jew” wasn’t employed before the House of Judah, in about 900 BC, went to war with their northern kin, the House of Israel. Israel to the north was not Jewish. For that matter, the children of Jacob (Israel) in Egypt were not Jews despite Cecil B. DeMille’s portrayal!

Saxons were the descendants of Isaac: Isaac’s sons! Isaac was the father of Israel.

The Saxons (Latin: Saxones, German: Sachsen, Old English: Seaxe, Old Saxon: Sahson, Low German: Sassen, Dutch: Saksen) were Germanic peoples whose name was given in the early Middle Ages (about 500 AD) to a large country (Old Saxony, Latin: Saxonia) near the North Sea coast of what is now Germany. Keep in mind this was more than a century after the Parthians had migrated into the region!

(A note here: The Assyrians were not descended from Isaac. They were descended from Asshur, a son of Shem. (Gen. 10:22). But by coincidence, there was a tribe among the Parthians named after Asher, one of the 12 sons of Israel.)

Gentiles: We tend to define what a Gentile is more by their not being Jewish than by any other consideration. In Sunday School, we were taught that if you’re not a Jew, then you’re a Gentile. This is a somewhat simplistic determination method, and overlooks that there are actually more categories of peoples on earth than just these two.

Are these several ethnicities above regarded as ‘Gentiles’? Are the ‘other’ descendants (of the twins: Jacob / Esau) considered Gentiles? Why would a descendant of Esau be regarded as a Gentile while the descendants of his brother Jacob are not?

The reason for this question is to point out that the northern kingdom, the House of Israel, was not Jewish! So while they’re every bit a descendant of Israel as are their Judahite brethren to the south, they’re regarded as somehow separate. What makes a race Gentile? Is it ethnicity or is it religion? In the case of a ‘spiritual Jew’ it’s

religion. (Rom.2:29) In the case of a Jew as we know them, it is supposed to be both religion and ethnicity. Yet there are many Jews who are totally secular, agnostic and atheistic even! In effect, they have apparently ‘forsaken the Covenant’. What then distinguishes them from their “Gentile” brethren? Would an Israelite believer be more of a Jew than a Jewish non-believer? At best, it can be seen as a ‘gray area’.

The point here is that the Ten Tribes of Israel could legitimately be regarded as “Gentile” IF we simply base it on them not being “Jews”. Such a consideration raises the question of the meaning of “the times of the Gentiles”. We tend to think that it means persecutions toward Israelite peoples by those who are not Israelite.⁴ What happens when a people have lost track of their ethnic origins? When an entire ethnicity has lost any awareness of their past?

A Brief History Overview

Just as a brief overview of the dispersions of the Tribes of Israel: The children of Israel were settled into the Land of Canaan in about 1390 BC. The Kingdom split in 931BC, after 459 years together under a single administration. The term Jew (after Judah) came into use after about 900 BC distinguishing the southern kingdom from the northern kingdom.

The northern kingdom (the Kingdom of Israel) was taken captive by Assyria in 722 BC.

The southern Kingdom (Judah) was taken captive by Babylon in 586 - 516 BC. The Kingdom of Judah was taken captive under a different empire about 135 years later. This empire was the ‘head of gold’ that Daniel explained in his chapter 2.

While the southern Kingdom of Judah was allowed to return to the land after 70 years, the northern Kingdom of Israel never returned.

The House of Israel remained ‘in captivity’ under the Babylonians after Assyria was conquered by King Nebuchadnezzar. Following that, the

⁴ The times of Jacob’s trouble: Jeremiah 30:7 “*Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.*”

Medo-Persian Empire (the breast and arms of silver) conquered the same region, followed by Greco-Macedonia (the belly and thighs of brass) which then devolved into separate administrations under the Seleucids. After about 275 years, the Seleucids lost power to the Israelite ‘captives’ – though they were afforded some autonomy under their predecessors the Persians – known by then as the Parthians, a large Israelite nation still living in the region where they’d been placed in captivity under the Assyrians. Parthia then held and dominated the regions, formerly occupied by their several predecessors, for some 470 years!

Their Presence in Mesopotamia Ended!

The Parthian’s defeat by the Sassanians in the early third century AD caused them to migrate northward into Europe in their large numbers.

Only a very few among us have made up their minds as to where the Ten Tribes of the northern Kingdom of Israel went and where they are today thru deep research and investigation.

In modern religions, there is an up-front reaction against such awareness. The Ten Tribe identities have been conveniently “lost”, especially on the part of main stream religious denominations. There are two areas of consideration relating to this: First is the applicability of “the Law” and being able to fully understand end-time prophecy. The reasoning is that if a people are not Israelite, then they are not obligated to keep Biblical Law, though admittedly, in their view, while admitting Jews are! Second, if we don’t know who certain end-time prophecies refer to, how could we possibly know how to understand and explain them?

Racial Type and Languages

Further indication is that European and European-descended peoples are called ‘Caucasian’. There is a reason for that. It should be obvious. That’s where the peoples came from originally.

European (and English) languages are known as Indo-European (from Germanic dialects) or Indo-Iranian languages or Indo-Iranic languages, or Aryan languages. This refers to “India” and “Iran” which bordered the eastern side of, and

were once incorporated into, the former Parthian Empire’s territories.

How is Our Language Indo-Iranic?


Where are India and Iran geographically? WHO are or were the Aryans? Much was claimed about the Aryans during the Nazi Era. They imagined an extinct mythical race that supposedly was a progenitor of Germans. If they only knew! They could have found what they were looking for if they’d looked north across the Baltic Sea! Of course, they couldn’t do that because they couldn’t accept who the Tribes of Benjamin and Naphtali actually were. They and others were ethnic ‘brothers’ of the hated Jews!

After the Second Coming

If we need more proof of where the Ten Tribes are today, prophecy states that Israel is to be brought from the “north country” ⁵ Their recovery will result in a greater “exodus” than the former exodus from Egypt.

There’ll be a prior call to “come out of her my people” (Rev. 18:4) referring to God’s elect within the European Beast at the time!

All Twelve Tribes are shown to still exist at the time of the first resurrection! (Rev.7:5-8) The two houses of Israel are to become re-united in the millennial age under King David. ⁶ King David will have been resurrected as king over the restored nation. The Twelve Apostles, will be over the 144,000, with 12,000 spirit-born Saints assigned to administer each of the twelve Tribes. (Rev.7:1-8) The twelve Apostles will each be ruling over one Tribe. (Mt.19:28)

While it has generally been taken for granted that the Beast Power will be Gentile, the stronger indication is that the prophesied Ten Kings that will be fully involved in its formation will be of nations that descended from the Ten Tribes of Israel. 

⁵ Jeremiah 16:14-15 & Jeremiah 23:7-8

⁶ Isaiah.9:7; Jer.30:9; Jer.33:17; Eze.37:24-25; Hos.3:5