

## Benjamin as Wolf and Light

### Commentary for August 1, 2008 — Two Metaphors, One Tribe

Benjamin (both the man and the tribe that came from him) is the subject of the "[August 2008 Newsletter](#)" and the article presentation by Dr. Martin: "The Tribe of Benjamin." The information in the research comes from a 1974 taped lecture. There is a surprising amount of detail about the man and the tribe. It is a story of depravity and yet later a story of redemption. It is a story of the wolf and the light. Two metaphors describe Benjamin, a wolf and a light.

#### *Benjamin as a Wolf*

Benjamin was the youngest son of the patriarch Jacob and his wife Rachel. In Jacob's blessing of his children he gave a short statement about Benjamin likening his actions to that of a wolf in viciousness:

**"Benjamin shall ravine as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil."**

• *Genesis 49:27*

The viciousness of wolves is something to behold. Wolves are like ripping, tearing killing machines. That is what Benjamin was portrayed as being like in his actions toward others.

Much the same sentiment is expressed about the princes of the Kingdom of Judah by the prophet Ezekiel before Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah and captured Jerusalem. This "wolf-like" aspect attributed to the tribe of Benjamin was later found also in the princes of Judah, in Ezekiel chapter 22:

**"Now, you son of man, wilt you judge, will you judge the bloody city? yea, you shall show her all her abominations. ..."**

• *Ezekiel 22:2*

Ezekiel then presents the evils taking place in Judah and Jerusalem, evils committed by the false prophets (verse 25), the priests in the Temple (verse 26), and even the people oppressing each other within the city (verse 29). In verse 27 there is an interesting statement by Ezekiel about the princes of Judah:

**"Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain."**

• *Ezekiel 22:27*

Those princes of Judah are of the Davidic lineage, David's descendants who were still royalty yet not to inherit the throne. They are not of Benjamin. These princes of Judah are described with the same characteristics that Benjamin and his descendants once had. As you will read in the Newsletter and Article, by the time of Ezekiel, the ravenous nature of Benjamin had changed, and the wolf-like nature of the princes of Judah. Benjamin had by that time become a light to Judah.

Remember that wolves do not just kill for food and then stop. They often slaughter everything in sight. That was what Jesus meant when He talked about "ravening wolves" in Matthew 7:15 and wolves among the lambs in Luke 10:3, and what Paul meant about wolves entering the flock of believers (Acts 20:29). The nature of wolves will change (Isaiah 11:6, 65:25) just like Benjamin's nature changed, as you will read in Dr. Martin's article.

## Benjamin as a Light

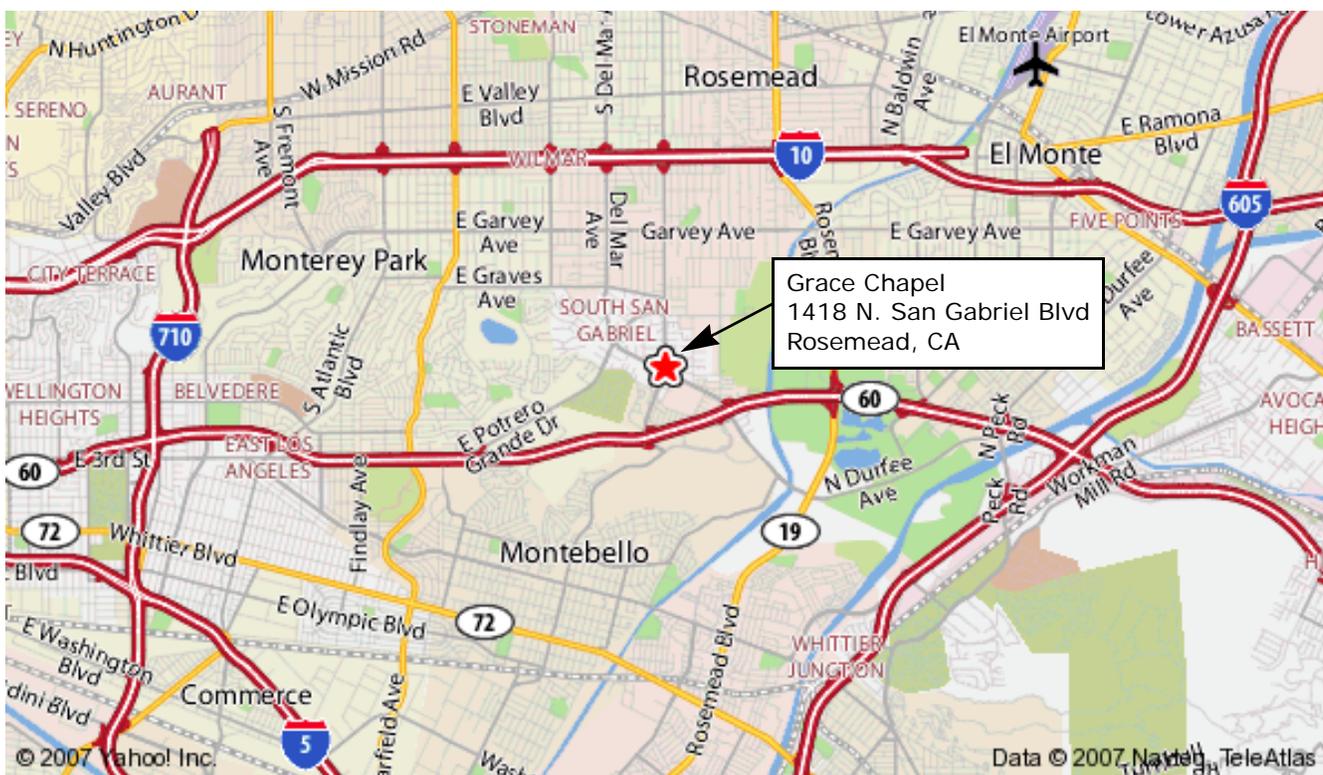
The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the tribe of Benjamin as being a light to the tribe of Judah. (Read the article and see how Benjamin becomes the light to Judah.)

The ultimate source of light to anyone is derived from Christ Himself (Luke 16:8; John 1:9, 3:19, 8:12, 9:5, 11:9, 12:46), and the Gospel of Christ is a light to the world: 2 Corinthians 4:4). Speaking of His disciples (and by extension all believers), Jesus said: **"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid"** (Matthew 5:14).

There is a lot more to Benjamin than you might first think. He was an interesting person and generated an interesting tribe. Benjamin produced one of Israel's first judges (Ehud, Judges 3:12–30, not discussed in Dr. Martin's article), her first king (Saul), and the apostle to the Gentiles (Paul).

## Los Angeles Presentation

I will give a presentation on Saturday, August 9, at **3:00 p.m.** at Grace Chapel, 1418 San Gabriel Blvd., Rosemead, California.<sup>1</sup> This event is free and open to the public. I will speak on the topic "Elohim and the Son of God."



I hope you will attend this presentation. It is about the nature of God and this topic is essential for your understanding. You may have read the material in the Doctrinal articles "[Elohim and the Son of God, Part 1](#)," and "[Elohim and the Son of God, Part 2](#)," yet it is important to hear as well as see the information in this presentation: **"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"** (Romans 10:17). Come and ask questions and I will answer them as forthrightly as I can. I look forward to seeing **you** there, whether again or for the first time.

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1. It is at the same location where in November 2007 I gave two presentations, one on the location of the Jerusalem Temples and later about the location of King David's Tomb.