

Two Houses of Israel and Judah

Commentary for March 15, 2013 — They Were Considered One after the Exile

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Some still teach and preach the error that somehow the United States, Great Britain, and other European nations or peoples are Israelites. This information by Dr. Bullinger shows that the people from the northern kingdom of Israel (also known as Samaria), after its population was deported from their homeland, many of those deportees (but probably a minority) returned to the land of Palestine after Judah's exile ended. This continued to the time that Judah gained its independence from the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BC.

In some cases I quote verses in full where Dr. Bullinger gave references. No doubt some of this information already may be familiar to you.

David Sielaff

[The Two Houses of Israel and Judah](#)

By Dr. E.W. Bullinger, 1897

There can, of course, be no doubt that from the division of the kingdom in the days of Rehoboam into the two houses of Israel and Judah, there had been a distinction between them. The question is, how far does that distinction hold in the present day? In the future, we know that the two houses are to be made one again, as is clearly shown in the prophecy illustrated by the "two sticks" (Ezekiel chapter 37).

The Anglo Israelites contend that the same distinction is maintained in the Scripture and subsequent history. Those who are known as "Jews" today belong to the House of Judah and the Anglo Saxons to the House of Israel.

But what do we find?

There can be no doubt but that Deuteronomy chapter 28 was spoken to all Israel. How then has verse 37 been fulfilled of Judah only? for it is clearly not true of the Anglo Saxon.

"And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither [wherever] YHWH shall lead you.

• **Deuteronomy 28:37**

There are many Scriptures to show that while the two kingdoms were distinct as such, with their respective kings Judah always contained a large number out of all the other tribes, so that it was always representative of the whole nation.

1. Immediately after the separation the prophet Shemaiah was sent with a message to **“all Israel in Judah”** (2 Chronicles 11:2–3).

2. We are told that when idolatry was established in Israel,

“... out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel came to Jerusalem to sacrifice unto the Lord God of their fathers, so they strengthened the kingdom of Judah.”

• 2 Chronicles 11:16–17

3. In the days of Asa, king of Judah, when he made his reformation,

“he gathered all Judah and Benjamin and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon; for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance when they saw that the Lord his God was with him.”

• 2 Chronicles 15:9

4. We read of Jehoshaphat that,

“he set of the Levites, and of the priests, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel for the judgment of the Lord and for controversies, ...”

• 2 Chronicles 19:8

5. In the days of Athaliah's usurpation,

“Jehoiada went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem, ...”

• 2 Chronicles 23:2

6. When Hezekiah made his great passover, he wrote letters and assembled the people out of **“all Israel.”** Some mocked, but many not only came, but dwelt in Judah (2 Chronicles 30:1, 5, 10–11, 18, 25).

7. In 2 Chronicles 31:6 we again read of **“the children of Israel and Judah that dwelt in the cities of Judah.”**

8. It was Judah that was taken to Babylon, and it was Judah and those of whom the kingdom of Judah was made up who returned. How are they spoken of in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah? Look at:

- Ezra 2:70: **“All Israel.”**
- In Ezra 7:13: **“All they of the people of Israel.”**
- In Ezra 10:5: **“Then arose Ezra and made the chief priests the Levites and all Israel to swear, ...”**
- In Ezra 9:1, we read of **“the people of Israel.”**
- In Nehemiah 7:73 we read again of **“all Israel.”**
- As [we also read] also in Nehemiah 12:47 [has **“all Israel”**].

9. Coming to the New Testament, we read in Luke 2:36 of Anna who was **"of the tribe of Asher."**
10. In Matthew 10:5–6, the twelve were commissioned to go not to the Gentiles or Samaritans, but **"to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."**
11. In Matthew 15:24, the Lord declares of Himself that He was sent only **"unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."**
12. In Acts 2:5, Jews were at Jerusalem **"out of every nation under heaven."** In verse 14, Peter addresses them as **"You men of Judaea,"** but in verse 22 he calls the same people **"You men of Israel."**
13. In Acts 2:36, **"all the house of Israel"** is directly and distinctly addressed, and could not therefore have been either "lost" or "Gentilized."
14. In Acts 4:27, it is **declared "of a truth"** that
"against your holy Child Jesus, whom you have anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together."

So that here not only were there sufficient out of all the Tribes to represent "Israel," but that Israel is especially set in contrast with the Gentiles! In verses 8 and 10, "Israel" is again mentioned. See also Acts 5:21, 31, 35, and 10:36.

15. When in Acts 11:19, it is stated that
"they were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phenice [Phoenicia], and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only."
 Can it be seriously contended that these preachers spoke only to those of the tribe of Judah and not to those of any of the other tribes?
16. In Acts 26:7 Paul speaking of **"the hope of the Promise made of God unto our fathers,"** declares, **"Unto which hope our twelve tribes instantly (Revised Version, earnestly) serving God day and night, hope to come."**
17. Finally (and we doubt not but that further evidence could be produced), the Apostle James addresses his epistle **"to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad,"** not which are "lost," or "Gentilized," but **"scattered abroad."**¹

We know from Ezekiel 48:29–35 that the twelve tribes will be settled by name in their restored inheritance²; and also that before that day there will be the sealing of 12,000 out of

¹ See Dr. Martin's article, "[Who Are the Northern Ten Tribes of Israel Today?](#)" where the Epistle of James gives powerful proof that the Israelites in the 1st century AD kept the Laws of Moses, contrary to any historical evidence from pagan historical sources, particularly ancient Roman and Greek sources. Some continue to claim that Israelites from the exiled tribes never kept the Mosaic Law. Yet one of the purposes of the Law was to distinguish Israel from the Gentiles and their nations.

each tribe by name (Revelation chapter 7) who shall pass unscathed through the great tribulation.

How this will be done, or how they will be known, we cannot tell, but the true Christ who is **"yet alive,"** will do it. When Joseph feasted his brethren (Genesis 43:33), they were all placed, **"the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth; and the men marveled one at another."** So it will be in that future day which is fast approaching. The true Christ will as easily place His brethren according to the flesh, each in his order and each in his inheritance. The Great Shepherd knows His **"lost sheep of the house of Israel,"** and He will call them by their right names, and again they will wonder and say, **"It is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes."**

The whole theory of Anglo-Israelism rests on the supposed perpetuated distinction between the two houses of Judah and Israel in the present day. But the Scriptures cited above positively prove that no such distinction exists.

E.W. Bullinger, July 1897

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Lecture and Conference Reminder

Let me remind everyone about the meeting of the 2013 Richmond Bible Fellowship Conference in Richmond, Virginia, beginning the evening of April 5th, continuing through April 6th, and ending at noon on April 7th.

I am scheduled to speak at 10 am and 3 pm on Saturday, April 6th. My first presentation will be "YHWH's Body" and the second will be "Temple Symbolism in Genesis."

The conference will be held at the Quality Inn (Richmond Airport), 5203 Williamsburg Rd, Sandston, VA, phone: 804-222-6450.

To attend, call Roosevelt Arrington, 804-350-2198.

² Ezekiel 48:29–35:

"This is the land which you shall divide by lot unto the tribes of Israel for inheritance, and these are their portions, says the Lord YHWH. And these are the goings out of the city on the north side, four thousand and five hundred measures.

And the gates of the city shall be after the names of the tribes of Israel: three gates northward; one gate of Reuben, one gate of Judah, one gate of Levi.

And at the east side four thousand and five hundred: and three gates; and one gate of Joseph, one gate of Benjamin, one gate of Dan.

And at the south side four thousand and five hundred measures: and three gates; one gate of Simeon, one gate of Issachar, one gate of Zebulun.

At the west side four thousand and five hundred, with their three gates; one gate of Gad, one gate of Asher, one gate of Naphtali. It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, YHWH is there."