

Berean Echad Ministries
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LOST LEGACY OF EPHRAIM - THE CAPTIVES PART 5 OF 7

As spoken in our last two studies, the mystery and the gospel have such close ties it can be expressed as the good news to the Gentiles that was lost. Christ (Yeshua) proclaims good news to the Gentiles in Luke by quoting Isaiah.

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

In other words, Yeshua is fulfilling Scripture of Isaiah, which is foretelling of the anointed one (Messiah). He is saying, "I am the Messiah (anointed one) that has come because God has sent me to do these things," and names them from Isaiah. Certainly, many did not recognize Him at His incarnation. His death, burial, and resurrection came as a mystery for the inclusion of the Gentiles who were lost in captivity. In this passage, He states that He is the one to proclaim liberty to the captives. Who are the captives?

2 Kings 15:29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abelbethmaachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria.

2 Kings 17:6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

The Assyrian captivity is the time-period in which the Northern Kingdom of Israel were captives in Assyria. The Northern Kingdom of Israel (Israel, Ephraim) was conquered by the Assyrian monarchs, Tiglath-Pileser III (Pul) and Shalmaneser V. They began taking captives in 734-732 BC. The later Assyrian kings Sargon II and successor, Sennacherib, finished Ephraim's demise in 724 BC.

Ephraim (northern tribes of Israel) eventually became known as the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. The Kingdom of Judah which was taken into Babylonian captivity were able to return back to Judah after 70 years of exile. The ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom never returned and assimilated into the Gentiles. Thus, known as the Ten Lost Tribes.

As spoken before in the study "Lost Legacy of Ephraim - The Gospel," 1 Peter was written to the Northern Tribes of Ephraim who had become, "strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (1Peter 1:1)." These were the ones who were captives of war and were assimilated and scattered. They were assimilated into being Gentiles and we have Peter, Paul, John, and James writing to them. James specifically writes to the 12 tribes who are scattered. The indications of this fact are astounding.

James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Paul has letters to those in Galatia (the Galatians) and also writes to the Ephesians and Colossians who are part of Asia as 1 Peter denotes are scattered strangers. In the book of Revelation, John writes to the churches in Asia (1:4).

In other words, according to 1 Peter 1:1 and James 1:1, Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia are indicators that the book of Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, and Revelation (specifically churches in Asia) are written to the mixed scattered tribes of Israel. They are explicit references denoted by name. These are 6 books that are explicitly speaking to the lost tribes. The Gentile nations are where the lost tribes assimilated into and lost their identity. The terms Gentiles, nations, and mystery are mentioned throughout most, if not all New Testament writings. These terms are implied ideas of those who are of the scattered tribes mixed within the multitude of the nations and are inundated throughout the New Testament. This information is hard to swallow because we also know the gospel is meant for all who are in Yeshua's blood whether they recognize the blood inheritance of Ephraim or not. Yet, these next verses will help us understand our identity thousands of years removed and lost.

Hosea 7:8 Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people;

Jeremiah 31:8-10 ⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. ⁹ They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

This has never happened and if this prophecy is to be true, then where are those who declare to be Ephraim?

Jeremiah 16:14-15 ¹⁴ Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; ¹⁵ But, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

The northern tribes are lost and scattered amongst the different land that they were driven to. The Exodus that is still being spoken of, is the one of Moses and Pharaoh, not the one of being taken out of the north. Yet, how will this prophecy be fulfilled if only a few have identified themselves as part of the lost tribes? The house of Israel is differentiated from the house of Judah in Scripture.

Jeremiah 3:18 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 for an inheritance unto your fathers.

While the tribes are differentiated, this comes to an end when the two sticks are united as spoken in our study “Lost Legacy of Ephraim - The Iron Rod.” Until then, the lost tribes must come from the ends of the Earth as prophesied in both Testaments.

Isaiah 43:6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth.

Isaiah 52:10 The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Jeremiah 16:19 O Lord, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Acts 13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

It is not a coincidence that the great commission is meant to reach the whole world just like the prophecy that the Gentiles (house of Israel, Ephraim) will come from the ends of the Earth. It is also not a coincidence that Abraham’s blessing has reached the whole world like the sand of the sea and the stars in the sky. We must remember that not all are chosen, but only those of the promise. These are the remnant that are chosen. As we can read, the remnant is within the midst of the nations.

Micah 5:7-8 ⁷ And the remnant of Jacob (Israel) shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the Lord, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men. ⁸ And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles (nations) in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

The remnant is made up by the seed of Abraham, the seed of promise. The remnant of Jacob (all 12 tribes) is in the midst of many people and is elected by grace.

Romans 11:4-5 ⁴ I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. ⁵ Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

The remnant is among the nations everywhere just as the lost tribes are scattered everywhere. Why wouldn’t they be the same?

John 11:49-52 ⁴⁹ And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, ⁵⁰ Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. ⁵¹ And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; ⁵² And not for that nation only, but that also he should *gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.*

The apostles, as I have quoted Paul, John, and Peter understood that He had come for His lost sheep of the house of Israel, those who were scattered as the fullness of the Gentiles, the melo ha goyim. Just as the prophets understood that one day the scattered tribes would return. Both the Apostles and the Prophets are writing to the lost tribes of Israel and the Gentiles as one entity. This is not preached in main-line Christianity.

Romans 15:8-12 ⁸ Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: ⁹ And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. ¹⁰ And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. ¹¹ And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. ¹² And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

The root of Jesse (Messiah) is being explained in the New Testament as the hope for the Gentiles and is quoted best from the LXX version of Isaiah 11:10. You are welcome to read it in the MT as well.

¹⁰ And there shall be on that day the root of Iessai (Jessie), even the one who stands up to rule nations; nations shall hope in him, and his rest shall be honor. ¹¹ And it shall be on that day that the Lord will further display his hand to show zeal for the **remnant** that is left of the people, whatever is left from the Assyrians, and from Egypt and Babylonia and Ethiopia and from the Ailamites and from where the sun rises and out of Arabia.¹² And he will raise a signal for the nations and will gather the lost ones of Israel and gather the dispersed of Ioudas from the four points of the earth.

The lost ones of Israel and the dispersed of Judah are within the midst of the nations, among the Gentiles. The Messiah will raise a signal to the nations and the lost and dispersed ones will gather in recognition of their heritage, even from the ends of the earth.