

# THE TRUTHS ABOUT THE TWO HOUSE THEORY OF EPHRAIM AND JUDAH!

by Richard Aaron Honorof

#1 There were never 10 lost Northern tribes! They were never lost!

These 10 tribes may have been in rebellion to God, but a remnant from all the 10 tribes (those honoring God) returned to God, to worship God in Jerusalem. 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 9:3; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 11:14-17; 15:9,10; 30:6,10,18; [2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 21:1,2]; Ezekiel 35:10. God first commanded this through Moses that He be worshipped in the place of God's choice, which later became Jerusalem. Deuteronomy 12:5; 14:23; Psalm 78:67-69

#2 Representatives of all tribes of the House of Israel were present in Israel when Jesus came to earth! **Jesus' own words** were that He came for **'the lost sheep of the House of Israel'**. Matthew 15:24 Notice that Jesus did not say that He came just for the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. When Jesus refers to the lost sheep of the House of Israel, He is only referring to Jews. "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to **the lost sheep of the House of Israel.**" Matthew 10:5,6

When Jesus began His ministry, all the tribes were represented in Israel. And representatives from all 12 tribes returned each year to Jerusalem from many countries of the Diaspora, as commanded by God, to keep the Feasts of the LORD. See Acts 2:5, and James 1:1 We also find this truth in Peter's own spoken words, "**Let all the House of Israel know** that God has made Jesus both Lord and Savior..." Acts 2:36

#3 For any Gentile to say that he is really an Israelite, because of a belief or a feeling that his ancient ancestry came from one of the 12 tribes of Israel, say Ephraim, is just foolishness, 'mishigas', to any Jewish person. **It is something that cannot be proven.** It is only just speculative. It makes unsaved Jews rightly **back away** from that Gentile, and from the Jesus, and the Christian religion that that Gentile represents. It really makes for a poor witness of our faith to the Jewish community.

This theory about Ephraim was taken from the blessing that Jacob gave to Ephraim, ... his 'descendants would become the **fullness of the goyim** (nations)'. (Genesis 48:19) What does that mean? Perhaps it means that his descendants would become a vast body or number of people, like the goyim (nations) as compared to small Israel. But if Ephraim's descendants became **goyim** (Gentiles), then they are no longer Ephraimites, even though their ancestors may have come from the tribe of Ephraim.

However Gentiles don't suddenly turn into Israelites or Ephraimites, even though they may be from the seed of Ephraim, or from any one of the other tribes of Israel some time back in their ancestral history, say 2500 years prior! They are still Gentiles!

But God has not forgotten Gentiles: Daniel 7:13,14; Isaiah 66:12; Revelation 5:9,10.

#4 Israelites from all the 12 tribes were removed from Israel for sin and rebellion against God, and taken to Assyria (or Babylon). Some returned to Israel after the dispersion, or remained as Israelites in the countries where they were scattered. Some dropped their identity as Israelites, (sons of Jacob), and assimilated into the foreign cultures, inter-marring with the foreigners, and denying their Israeli heritage.

What happened to their children, say 2500 years later? Are these children still to be considered as Israelites or Jews? No. They cannot be!

Their blood may still have a tiny % of the geneology of Jacob, but where do you draw the line? If 100 generations back it was pure blood, and now is only 1/100<sup>th</sup> pure through intermarriage, would that person still be considered a Jew? No! Never!

Whoever left their Jewish heritage and did not return to it, after 2500 years of intermarriage and intermingling with foreigners, their offspring of today are no longer Jewish, even though their ancestors 100 generations back may have been full blooded Israelites from any one of the 12 tribes. [Generally speaking, most dispersed Jews who stayed together, obeying God, keeping Jewish identity and heritage, not inter-marrying or assimilating with foreigners, remained Jews, and remained part of the remnant of Israel.]

#5 To tell a Jewish person that because he is a “Jew” means that he is really from the tribe of “Judah” is another error. For the word “Jew” or “Jewish” is a term that refers to all Jewish people, to all the heritage of the children of Israel, to all the sons of Jacob. To Jews of today, the term ‘Jew’ does not denote the specific tribe of Judah. The term ‘Jew’ may have originated from **the word Judah** or from **the word Judea**, the southern area of Israel and the land around Jerusalem. But all this is really just a subtle form of anti-semitism, an attempt by misguided Gentiles to put Jews in a box. It is a Gentile put-down and an insult to Jews. It is very degrading to those of Jewish heritage.

The term ‘**Jew**’ was not used **for Judah until after their exile** from Israel. But today all the children of Israel, from all the 12 tribes are known as ‘Jews’. This term ‘Jew’ has been used to refer to all the 12 tribes since the time after Judah’s dispersion to Babylon (Assyria), and not before! The term ‘Jew’ at first referred only to the tribe of Judah, but later, while in exile, became associated with all the children of Israel, both Northern and Southern tribes. In the book of Ester, **all the children of Israel were called Jews.**

All the Northern tribes of Israel were dispersed to Assyria. This included the eastern frontier land of Media, and the towns of the Medes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 17:6 When King Xerxes reigned over the Persian Empire, from Shushan the capitol, all the towns of the Medes and the Persians were his territory. Ester 1:1-3 **All the exiled Israelites**, including Ester and Mordechai, of Benjamin, were **called ‘Jews’** there in Media- Persia. Ester 3:6; 3:13; 9:15-19. **This use of this term ‘Jew’ has continued ever since.**

Today, an Israelite is a Jew who is born in Israel, or who has moved to Israel, and has received citizenship in Israel as a Jew, having one or both parents of Jewish descent.

#6 The terms ‘Jew’ and ‘Jews’ are used **84 times in the Old Testament.** **All of these references are from the time after the exile of the 12 tribes of Israel.**

Also the terms ‘Jew’ and ‘Jews’ are used **191 times in the New Testament.**

The terms ‘Israelite’ and ‘Israelites’ are used 18 times in the Old Testament; and **all references are before the exile.** After their return from exile, these terms are not found in the Old Testament. And these terms are found only **4 times** in New Testament.

The terms ‘Hebrew’ and ‘Hebrews’ is used 32 times in the Old Testament, and all references are before the exile. These terms are used only **5 times** in the New Testament.

‘Ephraim’ and ‘Ephraimites’ are used over 130 times in the Old Testament, but only used **3 times after the return from exile.** And these terms are not in the New Testament.

These bible findings **prove** that **‘Jew’ and ‘Jews’ had become the accepted terms** for referring to **all the children of Israel**, both before and during Jesus’ time, and today.

#7 The Lord has given thousands of Gentile believers in Jesus a deep love for Israel, and for things of the Jewish people and their heritage. This is because Jesus, Himself, is a Jew born of Jewish parents. And the Jews, His chosen people, are deeply on His heart.

Many Gentile believers are being called by God to be the ‘Way Showers’ for the other millions of Gentile Christians, to show them the way to their ‘Eternal Home’. For Home will not only be Heaven, but it will also be Jerusalem, when the Lord returns with His Saints to earth. These Gentile believers are also being called by God to now help other Gentile believers understand the truths of their Jewish roots in the Christian faith.

Gentile believers in Jesus **who turn against the Jews and Israel** will be cut off from God’s promises and favor. Many scriptures show this truth: Genesis 12:3, Joel 3:2

Today, many thousands of sincere Gentile believers are being **tricked and deceived** by **powerful demonic spirits of Deception**. (1 Timothy 4:1) They have fallen into the false belief that the reason they feel the way they do about Jews and Israel is because they themselves are an Israelite or Ephraimite, from some past Jewish heritage.

Though a few Gentiles are discovering that this is the truth of their family lineage, for the most part, Gentiles are being given a Jewish burden by God because of God’s plan for their life, both to witness to and to help unsaved Jews (Isaiah 49:22), and to help other Gentile believers discover their own spiritual Jewish roots. Zechariah 14:16-19

# 8 Six million Jews were exterminated under Hitler. They represented many, if not all of the 12 tribes of Israel. There was no distinction made whether they were from Judah or Ephraim. They were all grouped together as Jews and all suffered the same horror.

For Gentiles who today claim to be Israelites, the question could be asked: Would they have made this same claim in Germany when Hitler was in power? He would have treated them as Jews, if they had claimed to come from any one of the 12 tribes of Israel.

And at the time of the Roman dictators, 1000’s of Jews were killed, based only on the fact that they were Jews, not what particular tribe in Israel they were from. Acts 18:2

In the future, what position will these Gentiles take, who now claim to be Israelites (Jews), when anti-semitism rises again, and when Hitler-type governments again come into power, (maybe in the U.S.A. or other countries), during the years of the coming Great Tribulation? Will they still claim to be Israelites (Jews)?

#9 In Ezekiel 37, God talks about two sticks of Joseph and Judah, with these sticks of Joseph and Judah becoming one in God’s Hand. This had to be at least partly fulfilled before Jesus came to earth. We know this from the words of Jesus, Himself, when He announced the purpose for His coming... ‘for the lost sheep of the House of Israel’.

1000’s of Jews came from all over the world to Jerusalem to yearly keep the three major Feasts of the LORD. With 120 in the Upper Room on Shavuot, and with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, 3000 were added to the Body of believers that day. Many of those saved 3000 that day in Jerusalem had to be representatives from the 12 tribes, coming to Jerusalem from the diaspora, (along with those living there), when they heard the 120 believers praising God in their own various tongues and languages.

God mentions 2 sticks, the stick of Judah and **the stick of Joseph**. God repeats this **twice** in verses 16 and 19. But in verse 16, the stick of Joseph is referred to as ‘the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel associated with him’. In verse 19, God says that **the stick of Joseph** is in the hand of Ephraim and the tribes of Israel associated with him. Therefore, to refer to ‘the stick of Judah and **the stick of Ephraim**’, from the Ezekiel 37:16-19 passage, is not accurate! It is a misrepresentation of the word of God.

#10 Jesus also announced that there are ‘**other sheep**’ besides the House of Israel (**Jews**) that He must also bring into His fold. **These other sheep are the Gentiles**. We know this truth from many scriptures in God’s Word, announcing the purposes and calling of the Messiah. Isaiah 42:1-7; Isaiah 49:5,6; Daniel 7:14; Revelation 5:9,13 Quoting Isaiah 49... ‘And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, and that Israel be gathered to Him. Indeed He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the offspring 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.” ’

There are clearly only two groups to be saved, Jews and Gentiles! The one New Man!

#11 The Ephraim and Judah Two House Theory brings major division to tens of 1000’s of naïve and misguided believers in the Body of Messiah today. God hates division and those who contribute to it. “These six things the LORD hates, ... an abomination to Him... ‘**one who sows discord among brethren.**’ ” Proverbs 6:16,19

Revelation 2:1,9 and 3:1,9 speak of those: “**...who say they are Jews, but are not...**” Does God’s serious Warning from Revelation 2 and 3 apply to this particular deception?

This false Two House Theory has brought great discord and division among the Body of believers in Yeshua. It is caused by spirits of Deception. We have been warned to stay awake, for in the last days many deceivers would come into the Body of Yeshua, with false doctrines that would divide the Body of believers. (1 Timothy 4:1)

The Two House Theory is false, and has caused serious damage to countless lives. The devil has used it to scatter tens of 1000’s of sincere innocent and misguided believers, with sincere motives. They have gotten far off track from their true calling, purpose, and destiny from God. They have missed God’s perfect will. And all their good intent and efforts will only produce only wood, hay and stubble.

#12 This whole idea of the term the ‘**House of Ephraim**’ is also so very misleading when you look at the statistics, as if this term was of some major significance and importance to God. If the term ‘House of Ephraim’ was of such significance to God, why is it **only mentioned one time in the whole Old Testament**? And even this one reference is not significant. (Judges 10:9) Whereas, just from the time of the exile of all 12 tribes, **the ‘House of Israel’ is mentioned 118 times**, and the ‘House of Judah’ 17 times.

#13 The Two House Theory of Ephraim and Judah is not the way of the cross. Its religious focus is on self-identity, that somehow if a Gentile can be a ‘Jew’, or Ephramite, then he will be somebody and have true value. It makes a Gentile to be someone other than what God created him to be, i.e. ... ‘a Jew’, or ‘an Israelite’, or ‘an Ephramite’.

The enemy's strategy has been to bring confusion and division to the Body of Messiah, and to make Gentiles into something that they are not. This theology does not encourage a Gentile to be all that God created him to be as a Gentile, and to excel in the calling that God gave him. Instead it causes great dissatisfaction in self, as if being who God created you to be, as a Gentile, is second class, as compared to being 'a Jew', or 'an Ephraimite'.

It is opposite the Christian walk that Jesus has called each of us to take, by surrender and dying to self, and by taking up our cross daily, and following Jesus.

Conclusion:

The Ephraim and Judah Two House Theory is serious deception and **Anti-Semitism**. It is also **Replacement Theology**, because Gentiles are attempting to claim the blessings that God has given only to the Jews. It is covetousness, and it is a violation of the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment. Exodus 20:17 It is a serious form of pride and jealousy on the part of Gentile believers, that they would want to receive the physical inheritance blessings that God has clearly given only to His Jewish people. Interestingly enough, God has provided similar blessings conditionally for Gentiles. Read Ezekiel 47:13,21-23 [versus Joel 3:2]

Many have truly missed their callings from Jesus. For God will judge each one of us, and this judgment will not be based on whether we are Jews or Gentiles. But it will be based on our surrender to God, and whether we have truly followed and obeyed Him.

How close did our relationship grow with Jesus? Did we accomplish what He asked us to do for Him, and did He accomplish what He wanted to do through us?

Will He say to us: "I do not know you!" ? Matthew 25:12. Or will He say to us: "I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" ? Matthew 7:23 and Luke 13:27. Or will He say to us: "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." ? Matthew 25:41.

I truly hope that He will say to each one of us: "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34

His decision will not be based on whether we are Jews or Gentiles.  
Nor on who was right or wrong regarding differences in doctrine or theology.  
However, it will be based on whether we truly loved one another!

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Feed My Sheep Jerusalem

Father, set Your people free; help them to attain the Freedom that Yeshua died for!  
Restore to Your people all their faculties, so that they can truly serve You!  
Oh Father, please heal the Soul of Your wounded people.

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