Kings*

1Kings 2:1-3 (1) Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,
(2) I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;
(3) And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:
1st and 2nd Kings cover 385 years of Israel's history--1 Kings covers the first 115 years; 2 Kings covers the last 270 years.
1 Kings opens at the height of Israel's power;
2 Kings closes as the remaining survivors of David's great kingdom are marched off in chains. The building of the Temple in the early chapters of 1 Kings is followed by the burning of the temple in the last chapters of 2 Kings. 1 Kings continues the account of David's life, starting with the rebellion of Adonijah, the coronation of Solomon and the death of David. It continues with the details of Solomon's reign, featured by the building and dedication of the temple. The sad fall of Solomon, his death and then the tragedy of the divided kingdom, following the rebellion of Jeroboam against Rehoboam are recounted in the central chapters of I Kings, with the rest of the book devoted to the conflicts of Judah and Israel with each other and with other nations. Of special significance is the story of the prophet Elijah, in his exchanges with King Ahab, and the prophets of Baal and evil Jezebel.
Turn with me to;
1Kings 19:1-3 (1) And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.
(2) Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the

life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.
(3) And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.
As with the other books of the old testament we have studied, I want to compare the books of Kings with the new testament. What happened in 1st and 2nd Kings that may have relevance in our lives. There is one such man of God that one should inquire of diligently. Elijah, the prophet of God utterly discouraged, had fled to Mt. Horeb, where he asked God to let him die. Elijah had spoken for God for about twenty years, now he was alone, or so he thought. But God had a wonderful lesson in store, turn with me to;
1Kings 19:11-18 (11) And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:
(12) And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.
(13) And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?
(14) And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.
(15) And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria:
(16) And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt

thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.
(17) And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.
(18) Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.
God was not in the wind, or the earthquake, or the fire, but in a "still small voice." *Elijah's ministry had been a ministry of miracles, fire and sword. He had shut the heavens, had been sustained by ravens, and by a jar of meal and oil that failed not, had raised the dead, had called fire down from heaven, and had slain the prophets of Baal and had brought rain to the land. Perhaps God's purpose was to tell Elijah that, while force and spectacular demonstrations of power are sometimes necessary, God's real work in the world is not accomplished by such methods. Many centuries later Elijah again appeared, in the Mount of Transfiguration, talking with Christ, of the work that must be introduced into the earth. Namely, His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem. To redeem people by the transforming of human lives into children of God by the* "still small voice" *of Christ in the hearts of men, first turn to;*
Malachi 4:5-6 (5) Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:
(6) And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.
Matthew 17:10-13 (10) And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?
(11) And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.
(12) But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.
(13) Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of

John the Baptist.
Elijah had appeared at the Mount of Transfiguration, but it was in the person of John the Baptist that his mission to prepare the "way of the Lord" was fulfilled. Now you may have noticed that Malachi had said God would send Elijah, but Matthew records it was Elias. In the 1599 Geneva bible, Elijah is the name recorded in both Malachi and Matthew, however, Elias is the Greek form of Elijah, there is no contradiction.
Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews came to Jesus by night to question Him about the "way of the Lord." There were many things going on at this time in history. There came John the Baptist in the spirit of Elijah proclaiming Jesus as the lamb of God. There came Jesus preaching the coming Kingdom, healing the sick and doing many wonderful works. However, Jesus did not display spectacular demonstrations of power to convince Nicodemus, but in a "still small voice."
His instructions are clear, turn with me to;
John 3:5-8 (5) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
(6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
(7) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.
(8) The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.
When one is born of water and of the spirit, it is likened unto the wind, one can hear the sound, but cannot tell where it came from or where it is going. But the Lord was not in the wind. Only that it is likened unto the wind. If one will be born again, of the water and spirit, God will keep His promise and translate that person into the Kingdom of His dear Son. The wind blows where it will and we cannot tell, so is everyone that God translates into the Kingdom of His dear Son.

When one will submit to the "way of the Lord" spoken by the "still small voice," *then the Lord our God will complete the transaction;* Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: (Col 1:14). *My friends, the Church is the Kingdom on earth. Those translated into the Kingdom, or added to the Church, are they that are* 'such as should be saved.' *Who are the* 'such as should be saved?' *Well! Listen to this;* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, *said the Redeemer* (Mark 16:16).

There are diverse division of opinions on the subject of baptism. Division has been and most likely will continue to be an effective tool of the devil. Jesus once said the devil would deceive the very elect if possible. Please be careful, the devil as a roaring lion is seeking whom he may devour. It has happened before. The division of God's people Israel, into the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom was the beginning of the end. The excuse was high taxes and poor political advice given to King Rehoboam. Sound familiar?, turn to;

1Kings 12:13-24 (13) And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;
(14) And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. *(scorpion—a small sharp hook)*
(15) Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.
(16) So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.
(17) But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of

Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.
(18) Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.
(19) So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.
(20) And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.
(21) And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.
(22) But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying,
(23) Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying,
(24) Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.
Solomon's successor had been given every luxury growing up. When the leaders of the clans of Israel gathered to crown Rehoboam as king, there was rumbling in the ranks. The ten northern clans wanted tax relief. They could not continue to meet the heavy demands placed on them by the King. In a move only the stupidest political advisor would give, Rehoboam told them that he would increase the demands, not lessen them. They would not acknowledge Rehoboam as king and split off. That disastrous split was never mended. The

northern kingdom lasted 209 years until it was conquered by the Assyrians. Judah was later taken captive to Babylon, but eventually returned to rebuild Jerusalem and establish their nation in the land once again.
Little is said about the lost ten tribes however, and various theories have been offered as to what happened to them. There is evidence that many individual members of the ten tribes did come back to Jerusalem and were assimilated with the two southern tribes, both before and after the Assyrian exile. Devout Anna, for example, who had watched for the Messiah for many years, was of the tribe of Aser as evidenced by Luke; And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; (Luke 2:36). *In fact, immediately after Jeroboam led the ten tribes away from Rehoboam to establish his northern kingdom, there were many godly people in the ten tribes who opted to stay with Jerusalem. We find the priests and the Levites that were in all Israel returned to Rehoboam out of all their coasts. . . . And after them 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. Jeroboam, the leader of the northern ten tribes had stripped the Levites of their duties and had installed his own priests to perform idol worship. Many of the deported ten tribes, or descendants, came back to the Promised Land and were all called Jews, from the name Judah, in the time of Christ and unto this day. Perhaps this can explain 1 Kings 12:20 that says* "there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only." *They were collectively called by one name, Jews.*
Turn with me to;
2Chronicles 11:13-17 (13) And the priests and the Levites that were in all Israel resorted to him out of all their coasts.
(14) For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and

came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD:
(15) And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made.
(16) And after them 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.
(17) So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon.
The southern kingdom known as Judah lasted 345 years until it was conquered by the Babylonians. Unlike Assyria, the Babylonians allowed the captives of Judah to live together in the land of Babylonia. They were given land and tools and within a few years settled in and prospered. So much so that when a new king told them they could return to Jerusalem, not all wanted to return. But unlike the northern kingdom that was not heard of again, Judah, the house of David, remained intact because of the promise that the Messiah was to come, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Even in Genesis there is evidence Judah would survive until Christ came in this prophecy;
The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be (Gen 49:10).
The scepter, the judicial power, remained with Judah until about the time of Christ when Rome removed that power and placed it in the hands of the appointed governor. The priest should have known Christ was the Messiah because they knew the scepter had departed because they could not execute the death penalty themselves. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate had to be summoned to pronounce judgment of death. It's amazing that of all that happened to the nation of Israel, the ten tribes splitting off and being carried off to other lands, yet God's promises never failed. Judah had power of

the scepter until Shiloh came just as Jacob had prophesied, but was lost before His death. If there are ten tribes lost, why do their names continue to be recorded? There is prophecy of the twelve tribes recorded in the last book of the new testament, turn to;

Revelation 7:4-10 (4) And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.
(5) Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.
(6) Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.
(7) Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.
(8) Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.
(9) After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;
(10) And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Now in the Revelation list of the twelve tribes, Dan is missing and Manasseh is added. I do not know why. In Genesis chapter 49 the twelve tribes are listed as, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph, and Benjamin. The blessing of Jacob to Judah is quite interesting having an effect on the world unlike anything before or after, the blessing of our King; turn with me to;

Genesis 49:10-11 (10) The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh

come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.
(11) Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:
*Notice; **"The scepter shall not depart until Shiloh come."***
And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor (Matt 27:2).
The Jews had to get Roman authority to execute Jesus because the scepter (judgment) had departed.
"He shall bind his colt unto the vine." And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him (Mark 11:2).
"He washed His garments in wine and His clothes in the blood of grapes." But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water (John 19:34). *Figuratively wine as blood is used 'as in sacrifice' or 'as in vengeance.' Christ did both. He shed His blood to redeem man from sin, but also in wrath against those who rebel against Him. It should be observed, the devil is a noteworthy rebel, however he can be defeated by faith. But what is faith? Faith in Christ is the effect of belief in the word, and baptism is the effect of faith; only those who have first believed the testimony of God, and by faith repent of their sins, and by faith confess Jesus is the Son of God, and by faith are baptized into His death for remission of sin, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. Baptism is to wash away sin but through faith in the blood of Christ. This invitation is always open, also prayer requests, in either case come while we gently persuade with song.*

This message approved by
Jack Warford
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Lost Tribes of Israel

by David Treybig

Have some of the tribes of Israel really been lost? When did this perception originate? What does the Bible say about the lost tribes of Israel?

Lost tribes of Israel.

Where can we find the lost tribes of Israel?

The ancient nation of Israel originated from Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel (Genesis 32:28). The descendants of his 12 sons became known as the 12 tribes of Israel (Genesis 35:22). As these people multiplied and the nation of Israel developed, each of these family units represented one of "the divisions of Israel" headed by a man from that tribe (Numbers 1:4; Joshua 22:14).

After the death of King Solomon, the nation divided into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom, which consisted of 10 tribes (1 Kings 11:31), retained the name Israel; and the southern kingdom, which consisted of two tribes, became known as Judah (1 Kings 12:21).

A civil war soon erupted, as the Jews mustered an army to fight against the Israelites for the purpose of restoring all of the tribes under the rule of Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. This endeavor failed, and the two nations, representing the Jews and Israelites, never reconciled. However, the Bible says that in the future these peoples will be reconciled. See; (Heb 8:8-13)

Israel disappears as a nation

God sent prophets to the citizens of both Israel and Judah warning them that unless they repented of their sins, their nations would face disaster and they would be taken into captivity. The nation of Israel was toppled by Assyria in 722 B.C. and its citizens were deported (1 Chronicles 5:26; Ezekiel 39:23).

Although a large number of Israelites from three of the tribes comprising the northern kingdom had migrated to Judah because of their nation's rebellion against God and the punishment that came because of it (2 Chronicles 15:3-6, 9), the vast majority of ancient Israel's citizens were either killed in battle or deported by the Assyrians. Those taken captive were sent to "Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river Gozan" (1 Chronicles 5:26). This is the point in history where some of the tribes appear to have been lost. Historians often refer to these people after this time as the "Lost Tribes of Israel" or the "Ten Lost Tribes."

While most of these people no longer remember their original language, culture, history or religion, there are biblical, linguistic and archaeological clues indicating what happened to them and where they are today. Before continuing our study of what the Bible says about these people, let's see why the Jews, descendants of the ancient nation of Judah, have not lost their identity.

Jews retain their identity

Because of disobedience to God's laws, the nation of Judah was taken into captivity by Babylon between 604 and 586 B.C. Prior to their going into captivity, God told the citizens of Judah: "For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return

to this place" (Jeremiah 29:10).

After the 70 years had expired, a remnant of the Jewish people returned to their native land and rebuilt the city of Jerusalem and the temple under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah.

One of the reasons the nation of Judah had been punished was for ignoring God's command to observe the biblical Sabbath, which occurs on the seventh day of the week, Saturday. Recognizing this important principle, Nehemiah enforced Sabbath observance in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 13:15-19). This act of worship had been set up by God as a perpetual covenant and as a sign between Him and His people (Exodus 31:13, 16-17).

Through the centuries many Jews ceased to observe the Sabbath and many today no longer observe it. Yet it seems that a portion of the Jewish people has always continued this practice, and the Jewish people retain this understanding as part of their cultural heritage. The result is that unlike the 10 tribes who were part of Israel, the Jews have not lost their identity. Many Jews today reside in the modern State of Israel, but this nation does not include the many descendants of the 10 tribes who previously comprised the kingdom of Israel after Solomon.

Lost tribes of Israel not really lost

While historians have referred to the 10 tribes of Israel that were taken captive by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. as the "Lost Tribes of Israel," these people were not lost to God. Through the prophets, God continued to send messages assuring them that He had not forgotten them. Following the destruction of the ancient nation of Israel, God said, "For surely I will command, and will sift the house of Israel among all nations, as grain is sifted in a sieve; yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground" (Amos 9:9).

During the first century after Christ, writers of the New Testament seemed to know of the existence of all 12 tribes of Israel. Appearing before King Agrippa, Paul spoke of "our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day" (Acts 26:7). James addressed his letter to "the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad" (James 1:1).

Through the sifting process God had foretold through Amos, many of the ancient Israelites migrated to northwest Europe and subsequently became prominent nations in the world today.

The future for these so called "Lost Tribes of Israel" is bright. Speaking of these people, God said: "'Behold, the days are coming … I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,' says the LORD your God" (Amos 9:13-15).

The lesson for us

While the knowledge of the tribes of Israel is fascinating, the spiritual lesson behind this information is even more important. The point is really quite simple. The history of ancient Israel and Judah teaches us that God provides great blessings to those who obey Him and severe punishment to those who disobey.

God, whose laws and expectations do not change (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8), expects us to obey Him today.

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