

God's **TWO** Kingdoms

“Have you not noticed that these people are saying, ‘**The LORD has rejected the two kingdoms he chose**’? So, they despise my people and no longer regard them as a nation”
(Jeremiah 33:24).



The two kingdoms that God is referring to are the two contentious houses: Israel and Judah. They comprise of all of the twelve sons of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Jeremiah 33:26). Into the 21st century, many teach that the Jewish nation alone are the people of God, some say that the house of Israel—the ten tribes—the lost sheep (Matthew 15:24) were rejected and over time, so scattered that they no longer became distinguishable among the nations. "God can't find them anymore. They have intermarried into the nations," some say. Those people fail to understand the great power of the God of Israel who can sift twelve tribes through the nations and bring them together into separate nations at the time scheduled in His plan. While some have intermarried, the core of the people is each a nation from each tribe. "Oh, Lord GOD! You have made the heavens and earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. **Nothing is too difficult for You!**" (Jeremiah 32:17). Others say that they were over time totally destroyed, but the Bible has preserved a different story.

The people of the ten tribes known as the ancient house of Israel, were taken into captivity around 722 B.C. because of their sins and rebellion against God. They were not humbled during their captivity and after their release, they did not return to God. So, God extended their punishment seven times longer; they would not return to their homeland but wander among the Gentiles picking up the traditions and practices of the heathen falling deeper and deeper into the curses of God.

Despite their relentless rebellion and sins, God never rejected them. Twice God said that only if the decrees the Almighty God has over the sun, moon and stars to shine vanishes will He reject them (Jeremiah 33:25-26, Jeremiah 31:35-36) and "only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done" (Jeremiah 31:37). Simply, God will never reject the descendants of the twelve tribes of Jacob.

Ezekiel recorded a prophecy declaring God's grace for a people who had been swept up into rebellion and sin, but finally come to their senses. He "will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Jeremiah 31:34b). God has always watched over them. During their rebellion, He kept them in fear and often on the move; He fought against them through invading nations; He conquered them through stronger rulers; He destroyed their hard work and brought disaster upon them through droughts, floods, infestations, and disease. After hundreds of years in battle against God, they returned. Upon their repentance, He vows to watch over them to build them up and establish them in peace and safety (Jeremiah 31:28) and bring them back into one kingdom (Ezekiel 37:15-22) as they were before the great divide that took place two years into the reign of King Rehoboam.

The two kingdoms will be joined and eternally bound together under the kingship of David who will rule under the King of kings and Lord of lords. "I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains [government] of Israel. There will be one king over them and **they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms**" (Ezekiel 37:22).

Truly, all of the ancient twelve tribes of Israel are alive and well into the 21st century. Their patriarch father, Jacob brought them together before he died and foretold their future into the last days (Genesis 49). All twelve sons will have a national presence. Revelation 14 identifies twelve thousand men and women from each of the twelve tribes who will be part of the "sealed". The names Ephraim and Dan are excluded because they were not blameless before God. Joseph's name is in place to represent the righteous Ephraimites and Dan is totally excluded; he will wait for his redemption. Both of them introduced idolatry into Israel. King Jeroboam introduced the golden calves and Dan took Micah, the Levite with his idols for worship.

Moses prophesied that members of all twelve tribes of Israel will repent in the latter days. "**When you are in distress** and all these things have come upon you, **in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice**" (Deuteronomy 4:30).

The Jews into the 21st century have forgotten their brothers, maybe because long ago the ten tribes of the house of Israel were thrust from God's sight because after their captivity, they remained angry, rebellious and refused to repent. "Therefore, what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that bears my Name [Judah], the temple you trust in, the place I gave to you and your fathers. I will thrust you from my presence, just **as I did all your brothers, the people of Ephraim**" (Jeremiah 7:14-15).

For hundreds of years, it has been the rebellious ten tribes of Israel that pushed both the Great God of Israel away and their brothers, the Jews. "Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But **your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear**" (Isaiah 59:1-2). Somehow, while living in squalor and anger, a little light flickered and these people entrenched in sin turned to look for their God—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Beaten and bruised, they returned like the prodigal son and God welcomed them back with open arms. They were told to wait for their Savior before the re-grafting process would take place and indeed, they waited

anxiously and with great anticipation. “Many of the Samaritans from the town believed in him... ‘We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world’” (John 4:39a, 42b). The Apostle Paul expended immense effort to help the Jews believe the words of Jesus, their Savior, but they refused. Exasperated he declared, “God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen” (Acts 28:28). The tables were turning. While the divorced house of Israel was returning, the loved house of Judah was falling away.

It was the house of Judah who repented after their captivity and rebuilt God’s temple in Jerusalem. Yet, after hundreds of years of preserving and protecting the oracles of God, they allowed the pendulum to sway far from the centre and their religious leaders became obnoxiously self-righteous relishing in self-glory and self-appointed authority. They would not listen to correction and Jesus’ cried, “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, **how often I have longed to gather your children together**, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and **you were not willing**” (Matthew 23:37).

Their rejection of Christ and their relentless efforts to thwart the re-entry of their brothers back into the covenant family brought the veil of stupor that kept them from remembering their repenting brothers and learning from receiving God’s Holy Spirit. The veil will be lifted when every one of their brothers have returned to God, then their eyes will be opened again to acknowledge their Savior.

“What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the elect did. **The others were hardened, as it is written ‘God gave them a spirit of stupor...** Again I ask, did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious” (Romans 11:7, 11).

The offer to take the gospel to the world was given to the Jews first, but they rejected it. So, God turned to the repenting ten tribes of Israel and they are taking the gospel to the world. The greatest witness is yet in the future; the house of Joseph as done in the past, will again feed the world the word of God.

The Apostle Paul recorded and revealed the mystery. “I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: **Israel [the Jews now under the name of Israel] has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of Gentiles [of the ten tribes of Israel] has come in.** And so, **all [twelve tribes] of Israel will be saved**, as it is written: “The deliverer [Jesus Christ] will come from Zion, he will turn godlessness away from Jacob [the ten tribes and the Jews through the receiving of the Holy Spirit]. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins... as far as election is concerned, **they are loved on account of the patriarchs, [they are the descendants of the patriarchs] for God’s gifts and his call [given to all twelve tribes of Israel] are irrevocable**” (Romans 11:25-29).

The pendulum, which pushed the ten tribes into rebellion and **faithlessness** was the same that pushed the house of Judah into self-righteousness and **unfaithfulness**.

“I gave **faithless Israel** her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her **unfaithful sister Judah** had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery” (Jeremiah 3:8).

God is teaching all of mankind the lesson the tribes of Israel are learning: sin lies in every movement of the pendulum, except in the centre where the righteous rest in obedience to the ways of God and with undying faith and total trust in their Creator.

Both houses: Israel and Judah fell into rebellion. “God has bound **all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all**” (Romans 11:32). Neither house will be able to boast that they are more righteous than the other. No man or woman on earth will be able to boast of their righteousness. All of mankind have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

A time of great distress lies on the near horizon that will awaken and test all of the Judo-Christians and the nations of the world. It will be a terrifying time that will reach deep into the hearts of all of mankind. “For then there will be great distress, **unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again**” (Matthew 24:21).

During this time, both houses: Judah and Israel will return to their God—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. “When you have multiplied and increased in the land 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 gave for an inheritance unto your Fathers**” (Jeremiah 3:16-18).

Their journey as they return to God has been and continues to be a drama-filled roller coaster ride, but ultimately, they will bend their knee and never look back. “In those days, at that time, the **people of Israel** and the **people of Judah TOGETHER** will go **in tears to seek Yahuah [YHWH], their God**. They will ask the way of Zion and turn their faces toward it. They will come and bind themselves to the Lord in an **everlasting covenant** that will **not be forgotten**” (Jeremiah 50:4-5).

“So, when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, ‘Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?’” (Acts 1:6) Jesus could not give them a date and time because their restoration is known only to our Father in heaven. It requires the full return of the ten tribes, the overcoming within their churches—the seven churches of Revelation filled with faulty theology, then, the removal of the veil of stupor from the Jews, their acceptance of Christ as their Savior and finally, a humble and Holy Spirit filled family of 21st century Israelites who will never depart from their God. Then and only then, will their kingdom be restored, all in time for the Millennial reign of Christ and the saints.

The two kingdoms will become one again after over three thousand years of being apart. This time, they will live in peace with each other, with Christ as their King of kings and Lord of lords, the Saints as their Queen/Bride of Christ and the Father as Supreme Ruler.

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