

The Long and Winding Road... going **NOWHERE**



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“God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and **they will listen!**” (Acts 28:28). The Apostle Paul saw the light for these people at the end of the road, but it would take hundreds of years, before they would choose to get off that long and winding road... going nowhere and choose the straight and narrow road to salvation.

It all began on that dark and dreadful day, nearly three thousands years ago.

“Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke and we will serve you,” said the people of Israel (II Chronicles 10:4).

King Rehoboam listened to the young men that he grew up with and replied, “My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions” (II Chronicles 10:11).

When all Israel heard this, they replied, “Enough! **We asked for grace** but instead you threaten to **vex us** with burdens more than we can bare. **This means war!** We want nothing to do with you. From this day, we rule ourselves!”

The houses mustered their fighting men and prepared for war. But God intervened and said, “Do not go up and fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Go home, everyone of you, for this is my doing” (I Kings 12:24).

They all listened and returned home.

The **kingdom of Israel** divided into two houses: the **house of Judah** (2 tribes: Judah and Benjamin) and the **house of Israel** (the remaining 10 tribes). This fracture remains to this day.

From that time, the light of God in the house of Israel was replaced with darkness and



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bitter cold. All of Israel abandoned the law of God (II Chronicles 12:1). Under different kings the **house of Judah** returned to the Lord, but the **house of Israel** drifted further and further away into the thick dark fog of lawlessness.

The **house of Israel** was angry, **vexed** by their **royal family** who the added over time thousands of by-laws to the **commandments of God**. They refused their people **grace** from the heavy taxes. Ten tribes, the house of Israel, became enraged and bitter. Their king, King Jeroboam did not want the ten tribes to return to a united kingdom and lose his kingship, so he set up idols—two golden calves for them worship and eventually, they even despised the counsel of the Most High (Psalm 107:11). “They wanted to be like the people of the world, who serve wood and stone” (Ezekiel 20:32). They made their choice and fell into idolatry, living as the nations around them. Into captivity God sentenced them and afterwards they still refused to repent, so their sentence became seven times longer; an exasperated God signed their bill of divorce (Jeremiah 3:8). Unwilling to give up on the **house of Israel**, God sent prophets warning them, but they replied in fury mocking God, they said, “The days go by and every vision comes to nothing... it is a vision for many years from now, a distant future” (Ezekiel 12:24:27).

The rebellious and obstinate house cut off from the family was stripped of their name, Israel. They were sentenced to wander through the nations, filling them as they grew in number. They became Gentiles, even their brothers from the **house of Judah** called them Gentiles: people outside of the covenant—people of the nations (goyim), no longer God’s people, pagans, unclean, and lost—so very lost, an unredeemed people without hope.

For hundreds of years, the **house of Israel** wandered slowly forgetting their anger against their brothers and the painful divorce from their God. They knew He could NEVER remarry them under the law that He established because it was forbidden to remarry a woman that you divorced (Deuteronomy 24:1-4). They understood the analogy and why God instituted that law. **They knew God would NEVER break His own law**. They were doomed. Now, they longed for a saviour, hoping their God would be willing to extend them grace. And so, the journey continued without hope on the long and winding road... going nowhere.

Yet, as they wandered their God watched over them, sifting them through the nations without a single one falling to the ground (Amos 9:9). **They were never hidden from Him**, even when they were divorced and cast off. God did not withhold His promise to Joseph, the recipient of the birthright blessing to bless Ephraim and Manasseh. “In majesty he is like a firstborn bull; his horns are the horns of a wild ox. With them he will gore the nations, even those at the ends of the earth. Such are the ten thousands of Ephraim; such are the thousands of Manasseh” (Deuteronomy 33:17). Joseph will be a fruitful bough... his branches running over the wall (Genesis 49:22).

In the latter days, the sons of Joseph will be strong because of the mighty hand of God, the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, their father's God who is Almighty. They will be blessed with resources and wealth above measure (Genesis 49:25-26).

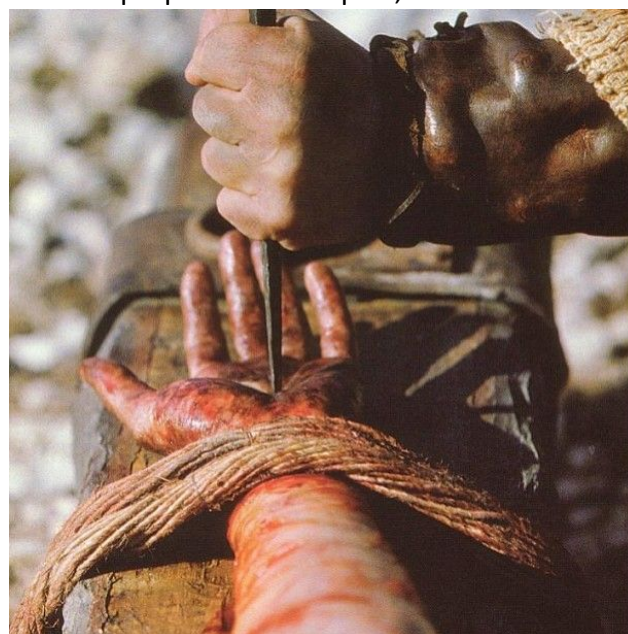
To enjoy the extravagant blessings from the generous God they mocked, refused to obey, and hated, only added salt to the realization that they were not happy without Him and they wanted to return, but the law prohibits a remarriage. The **house of Israel**, the lost sheep cry, "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off" (Ezekiel 37:11).

A **mystery** was spoken, a rattle was heard like bone to bone—a people slowly awakening, the whole **house of Israel**. From across the sea, the disciples announced the death of Yashuah HaMashiach for the penalty of sin. Apostle Paul revealed that mystery hidden after Christ's crucifixion. "When you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to be specific, that the Gentiles [the ten tribes and the people of all nations] are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel..." (Ephesians 3:4-6).

The **mystery** the prophets never understood was how their God could re-enter into an intimate relationship with a people He divorced without breaking His law. After the crucifixion, it became known. Yashuah/Jesus would had to die, while in the flesh. He took the barbaric beating, the scourging, the whipping, and died on the cross to redeem the **house of Israel** by releasing **her** from the old marriage covenant that she broke because she could not keep it without having God's Holy Spirit—that spirit that is God's, transforms the heart of stone into a willing heart of flesh. "For the seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10). Only the **house of Israel** had been lost—for hundreds of years. "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24). Now, **ALL of Israel will be saved**. "And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer



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Son of Man came to

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will come from Zion, **He will remove godlessness from Jacob**" (Romans 11:26).

"These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; but rather go to the **lost sheep of the house of Israel**. "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand'" (Mathew 10:5-7).

The **lost sheep of Israel** lived among the Gentiles for hundreds of years following Gentile traditions. They too, had become known as Gentiles by all of the apostles but not Gentiles by birth, rather Gentiles as a result of the divorce. They were the house without hope who needed to be saved.

Fortunately, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is forgiving. "I will strengthen Judah and **save the tribes of Joseph**. I will **restore** them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them" (Zechariah 10:6).

His love for the **house of Israel** was too strong to be ignored. "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness" (Jeremiah 31:3).

His passion for **her** could not be erased. "**O Jacob, O Israel**, Fear not, for **I have redeemed you**; I have **called you by name, you are mine... you are precious and honoured in my sight**, and because **I love you**" (Isaiah 43:1).

He longed for **her** return. "**O Jacob** for you are my servant, **O Israel**. **I have made you**, you are my servant; **O Israel, I will not forget you**" (Isaiah 44:21).

Finally, **she received grace**; the grace she asked for those many years ago. She became **the house that embraces GRACE to the fullest**.

But, **grace alone is not complete**.

Now, the straight and narrow road is visible—the road leads to salvations. Get off the long and winding road... going nowhere and return to the path leading to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

"In the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and **obey him**. For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath" (Deuteronomy 4:30-31).



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To obey God is to keep His commandments, the Ten Commandments.

1. I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt. Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.
2. Have no other gods before me.
3. Do not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth below. Do not bow down to them or worship them.
4. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
5. Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
6. Honor your father and mother.
7. Do not murder.
8. Do not commit adultery.
9. Do not steal.
10. Do not covet.

“This is what the LORD says: ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; **ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls...**’” (Jeremiah 6:16).

Seek out the **ancient paths**:

- **ETERNAL LAW:** The Ten Commandments
- **ETERNAL LAW & STATUTE:** The Sabbath
- **ETERNAL ORDINANCE:** The annual festival days (Leviticus 23)

The new covenant is the renewed old covenant, but this time, worshiping God filled with a **willing spirit, a heart of flesh** instead of the rebellious heart of stone. Clean out your life from the traditions of men. Remove the practices of Christmas, Easter, and all of the other popular traditions of men.



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Christians have not yet let go of all of the traditions of men (Mark 7:8). “You nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that” (Mark 7:13). “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, **after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ**” (Colossians 2:8).

To love God is to **keep His commandments CAREFULLY**. “If you **fully obey the LORD your God** and **carefully** follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth” (Deuteronomy 28:1). “...**follow my decrees** and are **careful** to **obey my commands**” (Leviticus 26:3).

The **house of Israel** is prophesied to fully return to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. “This is the covenant I will make with the **house of Israel** after that time,’ declares the Lord. ‘I will put

my law in their minds and write it on their hearts I will be their God, and they will be my people... I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more... I will never reject the descendants of Israel despite all that they have done” (Jeremiah 31:33-37).

God promises to restore the ancient kingdom of Israel. “When ye be **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).

“The **people of Judah** and the **people of Israel** will be **reunited**, and they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel” (Hosea 1:12).

“The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will bring my people **Israel** and **Judah** back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their ancestors to possess,' says the LORD" (Jeremiah 30:3).

The **house of Judah** (the great law enforcers) and the **house of Israel** (the thankful grace embracers) together will be restored as **one great kingdom**. “I am going to take the stick of Joseph which is in the hand of Ephraim and all the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah’s stick, and all of the Israelite tribes associated with him making them a single stick of wood in my hand... and they will **never again be two nations...**” (Ezekiel 37:16-22).

When the two houses are restored, they will be a **humble family of people**. The **house of Judah** will obtain **grace** (Zechariah 12:10) and the **house of Israel** will **obey the commandments carefully**. “Together, they will be a chosen people, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).

Law and **Grace** will be fused together as **ONE** under **ONE God**, the Almighty, the Sovereign, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

God’s great plan for the kingdom of Israel, His inheritance was to teach them **His way of ruling humbly, teaching and obeying His commands carefully**. Through Yashuah/Jesus’ sacrifice, **grace** was given as a **cover for when we fall** that we are not without hope, **redemption** is again obtainable but not for misuse.



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Together the two houses will be united as one without friction. "Ephraim's jealousy will vanish, and Judah's enemies will be destroyed; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim" (Isaiah 11:13). Law and grace, too will be fused together without contention.

In the latter days, these people will finally awaken and become faithful to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **God is not done with these people! He has not chosen anyone else to complete His plan.**

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 preserved ones of Israel; I will also make **you a light of the nations** so that **My salvation may reach to the end of the earth**" (Isaiah 49:6).

"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand" (Mark 3:25). This re-union will be everlasting because obedience to God's law is loving Him and our unintentional failures will be forgiven through God's grace. **Law** and **Grace** work as **ONE** in the same way that the **house of Judah** and the **house of Israel** re-united as **ONE nation** will rule as **kings** and **priests** under their King in the Millennium.

There will be no hiding the sins of the houses of **Judah** and **Israel** from the world. "And **the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin**, because **they were unfaithful to me [God]**. So I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they **all** fell by the sword. I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses... I will now bring Jacob back from captivity and will have compassion on **all** the people of Israel... I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord" (Ezekiel 39:23-29).

It is time to get off that long and winding road... going nowhere and choose the ancient path that leads **DIRECTLY** to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.



Compiled by Janette Andrejowich

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