

The Scattering of the House of Israel

As easily understood as A - B - C - D

Victor L. Ludlow

BYU Emeritus Professor, Ancient Scriptures

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A = **LOST TEN TRIBES** 721 B.C.E. and following centuries

Descendants of the inhabitants of the northern kingdom of Israel who dispersed in at least four known groups, starting in the 730s B.C.E.:

- > Israelites scattered by Assyrians throughout the Near East and then adapted to the cultures and religions of the region, quickly losing their identity as 'Israelites'.
- > 'Ten Tribes' who migrated northward into central regions of Asia and Europe; the resurrected Christ appeared among them and they later fell into apostasy. (Ephraimites, especially, settled and intermarried with the descendants of Japeth in western Europe, Scandinavia, and the British Isles and their descendants later migrated to the Americas both before and after the restoration of the Gospel.)
- > Refugees (religious/political) who fled to Judah in 720s B.C.E. becoming citizens of that country; thus they were later known as 'Jews.' (Such as the ancestors of Lehi and Ishmael. NOTE: Other Levites and northern Israelites had earlier fled south to Judah in the 800s B.C.E. during the persecutions of Ahab and Jezebel.)
- > Samaritans are homeland Israelites who intermarried with Babylonians, Arabs, others. They interacted in positive, indifferent, and negative relationships with the Jews and other religious communities throughout the biblical period into the modern era.

B = **LEHITES** 600 B.C.E. (& 'Mulekites' around 586 B.C.E.)

Descendants of Lehi, Ishmael, Zoram, Mulek and others who left the Jerusalem area and settled in the Americas and Pacific Isles. (Much of their thousand year history is recorded in the Book of Mormon; today they are referred to by LDS as 'Lamanites'.)

C = **JEWS** 586 B.C.E. & 70 C.E. and following centuries

Descendants of the southern Israelite kingdom of Judah who dispersed in two major time periods, Babylonian and Roman, with two benchmark years:

- > 586 B.C.E. with the destruction of the Solomon's temple (also known as the 'first temple'), as Babylon conquered Judah and took many Jews as slaves to Babylon, many other Jews fled to Egypt and Arabia or migrated to Persia and other lands throughout the Middle East, including parts of Asia and Africa.
- > 70 C.E. with the destruction of Herod's remodeled temple of Zerubbabel (also known as the 'second temple'), as Rome subdued the Jews in the Galilee and Judea after their revolt against Roman rule and taxes, many Jews had already settled throughout the Roman Empire, but now their presence in the central homeland was limited or forbidden and their DIASPORA (dispersal) among many Gentile nations was widely established.

D = **SCATTERED REMNANTS** ?? unknown dates and events

Various unidentified scattered remnants of Israelites who migrated throughout the world; they are also known as 'Ephraim among the nations' or called the 'Gentiles' because of their absorption and intermarriages among other nationalities. (See D&C 109:60-67, including footnotes, for some identifying terms and key promises of these 'scattered remnants'.) When further scriptures and records come forth, more names, dates, places and historical events can be established; in the meantime, patriarchal blessings help identify some of the more spiritually responsive descendants of these scattered remnants of Israel.

The Gathering of the House of Israel

As fulfilled in the order of D - C - B - A

Victor L. Ludlow

A Greater Miracle than the Exodus (Jer. 16:14-15)

BYU, 2018

D = **SCATTERED REMNANTS** starting in 1820; key date: **Apr 3, 1836**

Various scattered remnants of Israelites (also known as ‘Ephraim’ or ‘Gentiles’) started a key work of the restoration with the building of the Kirkland Temple. (See D&C 109, esp. verses 60-67.) One week later, the keys for the gathering of the House of Israel were restored by the ancient prophet Moses to the prophet Joseph Smith Jr. Missionary work, especially as directed and supported by the descendants of Ephraim, has sought out further descendants of Israel since then. Patriarchal blessings help identify many of these scattered remnants of Israel.

C = **JEWS** starting in the 1880's; key date: **May 15, 1948**

Jews who scattered in their ‘Diaspora’ among the nations of Asia, Africa, Europe, and eventually into the Americas retained a hope of an eventual gathering back to the lands of their ancestors. Various attempts in the medieval and early modern eras met with little success. In 1830, less than 18,000 of the 3½ million Jews worldwide resided in the Ottoman Turkish province of Palestine. In October, 1841, the apostle Orson Hyde dedicated the Holy Land for the return of the Jews. In the 1850's, Moses Montefiore from England and the Rothchilds from Germany supported various philanthropic missions among poor Jewish communities in Palestine. The first waves (*aliyot*) of returning Jews began in the 1880's. The Jewish Zionist movement (begun in 1897 by Theodor Herzl) encouraged further migration. (Thus, as Latter-day Saints [representing the scattered remnants of Ephraim among the Gentiles] gathered to ‘stakes of Zion’ in North America, the first groups of Jews gathered to ‘Zion’ in the Palestinian territory of the Turkish Empire in the Middle East.) These early waves of Ashkenazi (Russian, Polish, and German) Jews culminated in 1948 with the establishment of the modern Jewish State of Israel.* Hundreds of thousands of Sephardic (North African and Middle Eastern) Jews then migrated from Muslim countries. Then, after the dismantling of the U.S.S.R., hundreds of thousands of ‘FEB’s’ (Former East Bloc) citizens (including some Latter-day Saint converts) migrated to Israel where they are being taught the Hebrew language and about Jewish culture.

B = **LEHITES** starting in 1830's; real success in 1970's; key date: **1975**

The descendants of the Book of Mormon community (known by Latter-day Saints as the ‘Lamanites’) in the Americas and the Pacific islands were proselyted early and throughout church history. Finally in the 1970's, especially during the administration of President Spencer W. Kimball, the establishment of LDS stakes, temples, CES programs, local missionaries in fulltime service, etc. demonstrated the solid growth of the Church among the Lamanites scattered among the various peoples, both indigenous and European, and the Catholic nations of Central and South America. In the fall of 1975, Pres. Kimball said ‘now is the time of the Jew* [Lamanite/Israelite]’ and nine new LDS stakes were organized in Mexico City on a single weekend. Mexico and Brazil now have the second and third largest LDS communities in the world.

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A = **LOST TEN TRIBES** ?? Unknown key dates and events still in the future

Descendants of the ‘Lost Ten Tribes’ are undoubtedly scattered into many parts of the world. They are ‘lost’ to the world and probably to themselves. They do not know that they are the literal descendants of the northern tribes of Israel. As missionary work unfolds in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Mongolia, patriarchal blessings are identifying many Israelites from the northern tribes. Further works, including the coming forth of another scriptural testament of Christ (see 2 Ne 29:12-14), will help identify these people and their historical and religious past! Presidents Thomas S. Monson and Russell M. Nelson have been very involved with the development and leadership of the Church in Eastern Europe.

* NOTE: See 1 Nephi 19:15 (change of attitude), 2 Nephi 6:11 (change of knowledge) for the pre-conditions of the ‘**gathering**’ and then 2 Nephi 10:7 (change of belief) for the essential spiritual and/or covenant pre-condition for the ‘**restoration**’ of the Jews and other Israelites in their lands of inheritance in these latter-days.

A similar pattern (changing attitude, seeking knowledge, and gaining belief) holds for most converts.