

# **The SCATTERING of the House of Israel**

As easily understood as A - B - C - D

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## **A = LOST TEN TRIBES** 721 BCE (Before the Common Era)

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

- > In the 730's BCE, Israelites were scattered by Assyrians throughout the Near East and they adapted to the cultures and religions of the region, quickly losing their identity as 'Israelites'.
- > In 721 BCE, the 'Ten Tribes' were taken from Judah and many later migrated northward into central regions of Asia and Europe. The resurrected Christ appeared among them but they later fell into apostasy (see Jacob 5.) These descendants of Shem settled and intermarried with descendants of Japheth in Europe, Scandinavia, and the British Isles. Their descendants later migrated to the Americas both before and after the restoration of the Gospel.
- > Refugees (religious/political) who fled south to Judah in 720s BCE becoming citizens of that country; thus they were later known as 'Jews.' (Such as the probable ancestors of Lehi and Ishmael. NOTE: Other Levites and northern Israelites had earlier fled south to Judah in the 800s BCE during the persecutions of Ahab and Jezebel.)
- > Samaritans are homeland Israelites who intermarried with Babylonians, Arabs, and others; they interacted in positive, indifferent, and negative relationships with the Jews and other peoples throughout the biblical period into the modern era. Samaritans still live in West Bank towns.

## **B = LEHITES** 600 BCE (& 'Mulekites' around 586 BCE)

Descendants of Lehi, Ishmael, Zoram, Mulek and others who left the Jerusalem area and settled in the Americas and Pacific Isles. (Some of their thousand year history is recorded in the Book of Mormon. Today they are often referred to by Latter-day Saints as 'Lamanites'.)

## **C = JEWS** 586 BCE & 70 CE (Common Era) and following centuries

Descendants of all Israelites tribes (esp. Judah, Simeon, Levi & Benjamin) residing in the kingdom of Judah who dispersed in two periods, Babylonian and Roman, with two benchmark years:

- > 586 BCE 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. Later, other Jews, often with their families, migrated into other parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- > 70 CE 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 lessened or forbidden and their DIASPORA (dispersal) among the nations of Asia, Africa, and Europe was firmly established.

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

Various unidentified segments of Israelites through the centuries 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 the nations. (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 more spiritually responsive descendants of these scattered remnants of Israel.