

## **The GATHERING of the House of Israel**

As easily understood as D - C - B - A

Victor L. Ludlow      ***A Greater Miracle than the Exodus*** (see Jer. 16:14-15)

Handout, 2022

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

Six years after the founding of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1830, various scattered remnants of Israelites (also known as ‘Ephraim’ or ‘Gentiles’) dedicated the newly built 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 have helped to identify many of these scattered remnants of Israel.

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

Many 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 their ‘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 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 migrated to Israel where they are taught the Hebrew language and about Jewish culture.

B = **LEHITES**      starting in 1830's; real success in 1970's; key date: **Oct 2, 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 indigenous and European peoples in Central and South America. On the Friday before fall General Conference, 1975, Pres. Kimball said ‘now is the time of the Jew’ [Lamanite/Israelite]’ and that fall, 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.

\* \* \* \* \* > AD 2022 CE > \* \* \* \* \*

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

Descendants of the ‘Lost Ten Tribes’ are scattered into many parts of the world. They are ‘lost’ to the world and probably to themselves. That is, they would 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! Note: Presidents Thomas S. Monson and Russell M. Nelson have both been very involved with the development and leadership of the Church in Eastern Europe and Asia.

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

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