



FEED MY SHEEP

PUBLISHED BY DR. JAMES W. BRUGGEMAN
STONE KINGDOM MINISTRIES
P. O. Box 5695
ASHEVILLE, NC 28813 U.S.A.
See my blog at www.stonekingdom.org

Issue #173

June 2013

Who are modern Ephraim and Manasseh?

The Story of Joseph, Part 38

A thought occurred to me many years ago concerning our biblical identity as Israel. Sharing it will consume this issue and more, because before I share it, I must set the stage.

In the preceding issue, we quoted a Bible passage which is among the most famous in all the Bible to those of us who believe the Israel-Kingdom-Identity message of the Scriptures. That passage is found in Genesis 48, especially verses 13-20. It is the scene where the patriarch, Jacob-Israel, is nearing his death and he calls for Joseph to bring his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, to him so that he may “bless” them. This blessing was a long-range *prophecy* and its fulfillment has had global reverberations and manifestations for centuries now!

Among kingdom believers—whether they be of the old British-Israel persuasion, or its offspring, the Christian Israel Identity persuasion—it has been very widely accepted to interpret the preceding verse in this manner: *Ephraim became Great Britain and Manasseh became the USA*. Here are some examples. The first from the Rev. C. R. Dickey’s classic work, *One Man’s Destiny*: Note: Christina Dickey used only her initials because she was a woman, and a Congregationalist minister at that, and at the time in which she ministered, many potential readers would have been reluctant to give a hearing to what a woman would have to say about theology. Their loss. I greatly admire her scholarship. She wrote:

“Israel was also to become ‘a nation and a company of nations.’ The Jews are comparatively few in number; they are neither a nation nor a company of nations.”

Keep in mind that Rev. Dickey wrote that in 1942, six years before the founding of the single-nation Israeli state. Dickey is certainly correct that the Jews are not a

company of nations and, after all these millennia, they still do not have the population to become a *company* of nations. She continues:

“The nation and the company of nations promised to Jacob were to evolve from an unprecedented expansion of the house of Joseph. Manasseh was to become a nation of great people: Ephraim was to become a multitude of nations. Can we not see the Manasseh nation in the people of the United States, and the company of nations in the British Commonwealth of Nations?”

In fact all the prophecies and promises concerning Joseph have been actually fulfilled in the United States and Great Britain—and never before by any other people or nation. By no stretch of the imagination can the Jews be fitted into this plan. Besides having no semblance of the national qualifications, they are not the descendants of Joseph.”

Many other writers of our biblical national identity echo C. R. Dickey’s interpretation, and indeed Dickey was echoing earlier writers. Dr. Howard Rand (a personal friend of Christina Dickey) was one of the most prolific expositors of the Israel message, and so allow me to quote from his book, *Primogenesis*, which is an outstanding work, and yet like all works of men (and women), it has a few flaws.

“The importance of this blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh cannot be overstressed if we are to understand God’s dealings with the nations today. As a result, they became tribal heads in Israel. To Joseph, through his two sons, Jacob gave one portion above that which he gave to his other sons. ...

“While Ephraim and Manasseh were joint recipi-

ents of the birthright, because together they inherited Joseph's double portion, it is made emphatic by Jacob's action that to Ephraim went the birthright headship.

Great Britain, and no other branch of the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples, fulfills in every respect the marks identifying Ephraim in the world today. The United Kingdom is a commonwealth of nations, a fact recognized and taught from the inception of the propagation of the knowledge of its identity with the northern ten-tribed Kingdom of Israel.

"The descendants of Manasseh, of whom Jacob said, 'He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great,' became the United States of America, this separation of Ephraim and Manasseh being brought about in the latter days so that each might fulfill his specific part of the joint hegemony.

"For many decades Great Britain has been recognized as a company of nations and the United States of America as a great people, this being so stated in secular history—the very designation by which Jacob declared the posterity of Joseph would be known in the latter days...

"When the throne and the Kingdom moved westward, Ephraim and Manasseh, being joint recipients of the birthright, must of necessity have been predominant in the migrations from the East toward the West, for dominion belonged to them. Numerical superiority was promised to Ephraim and this has been so ever since his descendants became a commonwealth of nations. ..." [Emphasis mine—JWB]

A bit further on, Dr. Rand concludes that "The blessings given to these two boys can never be fulfilled in the Jews. In the first place, the Jews are not the descendants of either Ephraim or Manasseh. The genealogical tables and history of the tribes, peoples and races of the Bible prove this to be a fact beyond any question of doubt. The Jew has his part, but that part is not the inheritance of the birthright. It is foolish to look for fulfillment of these promises of a nation and company of nations in the descendants of Judah. These blessings were given to Ephraim and Manasseh and the recognition of this fact is important if we are to understand the story the Bible tells."

As I said, there are numerous other writers of the Israel message which all identify Great Britain as the "company of nations" of Ephraim, and the United States of America as the great nation of Manasseh. While I agree on the whole with both Rev. Christina Dickey and Dr. Rand, may I respectfully disagree on this particular?

In so doing, I ask you to understand that I have no axe to grind genealogically. After all, I have some English descent, as well as German and Dutch. Furthermore, I am not being dogmatic about this. I could be wrong, but I just want to get this out on the table in Christian Israel circles and share this alternative interpretation with you. Years ago the thought came to me that maybe they got it backwards. To help clarify, let me re-read the pertinent verse, substituting the names of the boys for the pronouns in the verse.

Genesis 48:19 And his father refused, and said, I know *it*, my son, I know *it*: Manasseh also shall become a people, and Manasseh also shall be great: but truly his younger brother Ephraim shall be greater than Manasseh, and Ephraim's seed shall become a multitude [company] of nations.

So if we look again at the prophecy for what it actually says, it refers to Manasseh as being "great," not Ephraim. Ephraim is prophesied to be "greater." So technically, Manasseh is the nation which should have the word "great" as part of its name. "Great" Britain is the only nation ever to be called "Great" as part of its official, legal name. It is not called "Greater Britain." Plus, previous expositors say that Ephraim *has* to be Great Britain because Ephraim's seed became a multitude or company of nations as fulfilled in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Well, not so fast there, please. We will suspend our discussion of the name "great" for the moment as we take a look at the British Commonwealth. I checked my 1911 *Encyclopedia Britannica* and found nothing on the term "British Commonwealth" except that which referred to the time of Oliver Cromwell in the 1600s. If *any* reference book ought to have an expansive article on the British Commonwealth, one would think it would be the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Well, there is a good reason for that which becomes clear as I located these entries under "British Commonwealth" from two other encyclopedias. The first is from the *Colliers Encyclopedia* from 1932.

"The British Commonwealth of Nations is one of the three constituent parts of the British Empire, the other two being the Indian Empire and the British Colonial Empire. The term British Commonwealth, which came into vogue during the World War [that being WW I], is sometimes employed as a synonym of British Empire, but the better usage confines it to the self-governing parts of the Empire.

The British Commonwealth, in this sense, consists of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland, the senior partner of the Commonwealth; the Irish Free State, separated from the United Kingdom in 1922 and since then under a Dominion form of government, and the overseas British Dominions, namely, the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa and the self-governing colony of Newfoundland.”

That was 1932. Now here is the article from the *Worldscope Encyclopedia* of 1958 (emphases mine):

“British Commonwealth of Nations, officially (since 1949) the Commonwealth of Nations, the all-embracing designation for the communities comprising the British Empire. The form of government in each territory is determined by its size, its capacity to defend itself, and the cultural level and political experience of *its inhabitants, who are as diverse as the pieces in a kaleidoscope*. All these communities used to be formerly described as “The British Empire,” but some 20 years ago the great South African statesman, Gen. Smuts, pointed out that it was misleading to describe the self-governing dominions as an empire, and that they really formed a ‘Commonwealth of Nations.’ This phrase has been generally accepted, and as now used, it often includes those territories which have not yet reached dominion status but which are regarded as ‘junior partners’ rather than possessions.”

So there you have it. Now when I checked the *Encyclopedia Britannica* [EB] under “British Empire,” needless to say, it did have an enormous article spanning many pages, with many maps and charts. Among the charts are all sorts of statistics, such as the populations and racial composition of the various components of the Empire or Commonwealth. There were 56 countries in the Commonwealth listed in the chart in the 1932 *Colliers*. There were 55 listed in the chart in the 1958 *Worldscope Encyclopedia*. As I list them for you, be thinking of the racial composition. Grouped by continents, they are:

- 3 in Europe (Great Britain & N. Ireland, Gibraltar and Malta)
- 31 in Africa
- 11 in the Americas (including the Central American country now known as Belize, the South American country now known as Guyana, and many isles of the Caribbean)
- 10 in Australasia (including Fiji, New Guinea, Papua, Tonga and Western Samoa)

It should be obvious that the vast majority of the population of the British Commonwealth is not Israelite. Keeping in mind that we understand that the children of Israel today constitute only a portion of the

white race, *Colliers Encyclopedia* states: “The total white population of the Commonwealth is approximately 70,000,000, of whom, 45,000,000 reside in the United Kingdom.”

Moreover, the article from the EB states that “Throughout the empire, and notably in the United Kingdom there is among the white races a considerable sprinkling of Jewish blood.”

Therefore, I pose this question: the prophecy stated that “Ephraim shall be greater than Manasseh, and Ephraim’s seed (literal descendants) shall become a multitude of nations.” This prophecy does not say that Ephraim would rule over a collection of nations composed primarily of other races (seeds). So if the company of nations is not the British Commonwealth, where then is it? I suggest that you are living in it!

We who were born here in the USA and have lived all our lives here forget that the word “state” has always and everywhere meant “nation.” Recall that our Founding Fathers initially saw us as being a confederation—a company, if you will—a confederation of independent nation-states. These days, many Americans tend to think of our 50 states as provinces, sub-parts of a whole, as opposed to being individual nation-states in themselves, as was in the original intent of the Founders. Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan often referred to the various member-nations as “member-states.” States means nations. We are a company of nations, and the Israelite population of the United States far outnumbers that of the Israelite population of the British Commonwealth. To re-quote the late Dr. Rand: “Numerical superiority was promised to Ephraim and this has been so ever since his descendants became a commonwealth of nations.”

I beg to differ, my esteemed elder brother-scholar. I have enormous respect for your work, but it appears to me that the United States of America, or the company of nations of America, better fulfills this prophecy of numerical superiority. To add to that, look at verse 19 once again:

19 ... Manasseh also shall become a people, and Manasseh also shall be **great**: but truly his younger brother Ephraim shall be greater than Manasseh, ...

Just as Manasseh was the elder brother of the two, so also England/Great Britain therefore matured to greatness first, as history fulfilled the Word of God. But the younger nation, Ephraim, which only *became* a nation in 1776, became greater than the older brother Manasseh.

With the hindsight of history, we can now see that although Great Britain was indeed great, she reached her zenith in the late 1800s. By the turn of the 20th century, the United States—may I call us the United Nations of America—was clearly becoming the *greater* of the two. A few years later, that was borne out with World War I, as it became apparent that our cousins, the Brits, would lose the war unless the United States entered the war.

Twenty some years later, it happened again, only this time the outcome for Britain was even more obvious. Great Britain clearly would have been defeated, had not the United States been engineered into the war by the treachery of President Franklin Roosevelt regarding Pearl Harbor.

History has now shown that the United States of America has become the most powerful and the greatest nation in all of history—certainly greater than even Great Britain was. And so I would suggest that Manasseh is Great Britain. It fulfills the prophecy of Jacob-Israel when he declared “Manasseh also shall become great...” That is, Great Britain.

But some say that America is Manasseh because Manasseh was numbered as the 13th tribe and look at all the number 13s in our colonial heritage. No question about that. There are many. In fact, there are 13 thirteens in our national heraldry, so doesn't that give strong evidence that we are Manasseh? Well, that makes sense on the *surface*. However, look at the *premise* of the argument. As we have seen, Jacob adopted Ephraim and Manasseh in place of Reuben and Simeon. But Reuben and Simeon were numbers one and two among the sons of Jacob-Israel. In the adoption ceremony of Genesis 48, Jacob declared “as Reuben and Simeon, Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine.” Therefore, Manasseh was not the 13th tribe, but rather *second* in line.

Therefore, the idea is false that the United States *has* to be Manasseh because we began with 13 colonies, etc. To be sure, there is an importance to all the 13s in our heraldry, and I shall return to address that before we conclude this part of our study. Do not jump to any conclusions at this point because there are more levels to this prophecy. But at this point, we are out of space. (To be continued.)

Our Great Seal

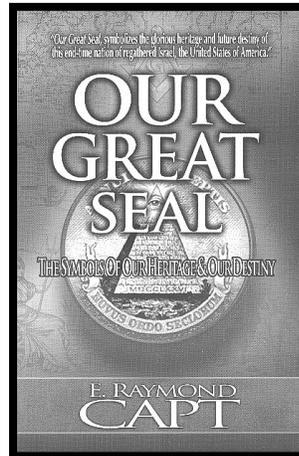
The Symbols of our Heritage and our Destiny

The reader will surely come away impressed that the United States of America is the glorious end-time

nation of regathered Israel, the “New JerUSAlem” of Bible prophecy.

Our Great Seal by Bible archeologist E. Raymond Capt — 120 pages, appendices (including: George Washington’s Vision of America’s future with commentary by Mr. Capt.)

\$9 each, plus shipping and handling of \$4. If ordering more than one item, add \$4 for the first item; \$0.50 shipping for each additional item.



Feed My Sheep is a part of the teaching ministry of Dr. James W. Bruggeman and it is sent out freely. However, we reserve the right to discontinue sending it at any time to any one. The donations and tithes of those who are blest, taught and fed by this publication make it possible for us to continue in ministry. Gifts can be sent to PO Box 5695, Asheville, NC 28813. Thank you.