



# 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](http://www.stonekingdom.org)

Issue #185

July 2014

## The Tribe of Benjamin—Light Bearers, part 2

*The Story of Joseph, Part 50*

Our lengthy study of the life of Joseph has allowed us to *peruse* (which, by the way, does not mean to skim, but its opposite: to scrutinize, to make a detailed examination of) the deathbed prophecies of Jacob-Israel over his sons. Benjamin was the youngest son. We discovered that it was later prophesied that the Benjamites would serve as “light-bearers” to Judah; more specifically, to the monarchy of Judah.

**1 Kings 11:36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.**

Jesus came as the Light of the world. It was the Benjamites, led by the Benjamite apostles, who gladly and almost immediately believed in Jesus. They became the first to bear the light, to carry the Word, to bring the gospel (good news) that the Savior of the world had come in the flesh. As Christ Jesus was about to ascend into the heavenly realm, He commissioned the 11 Benjamites with these words.

**Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Notice the order of progression concerning where they were to go as witnesses for Christ. First, in the city of Jerusalem itself, then into the rest of the territory of Judea. So Benjamin brings the light of the gospel to Judah first. Then outward from there, they were to

bring the light of the gospel to Samaria. And *who* lived in Samaria? A mixture of non-Israelite people. So Jesus specifically charges the Benjamite apostles to preach the gospel to the non-Israelites. We covered this topic in great detail in our two-part lecture called simply *The Samaritans*, still available from us on CD. (See page 4.)

After presenting the gospel to the Samaritans, they were commanded to carry the light to the uttermost part of the earth. Steven Collins’ book, *Israel’s Tribes Today*, does an excellent job in showing how the apostles and disciples of our Lord spread out in all directions to carry the light, to bring the good news to dispersed Israelites in the east, in the west, in the north and in the south. And in the process of bringing the good news of the Light to the scattered tribes of Israel, the non-Israelites among whom they lived were also invited to become followers of the Way.

The so-called “ten lost tribes”—which were lost only to the blind(-ed) theologians and blind(-ed) historians—had by that time been dispersed to all points of the compass. However, the bulk of them had migrated in a northwesterly direction over the centuries. Thus at the time of the apostles, we find many of them already in Europe as far as the British Isles, yet a great many of them still resided in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) and Greece.

This included many Benjamites, because there is one very famous man from the tribe of Benjamin who became the most prominent of all the apostles although he was not one of the 12. In fact, this most famous apostle had never even met the Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh. He was the apostle Paul (formerly, Saul) who was

born in Tarsus, a city in Asia Minor.

For centuries, mistaken churchmen have taught that most of the tribes of Israel have disappeared for good, or that they were amalgamated with heathen peoples and would never be distinct as Israelites again. Of course, there are Scriptures which prove that teaching is absolutely impossible or else God is a liar. One of them is...

**James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.**

Another proof was written by Paul himself as he stated in ...

**Romans 11:1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.**

There are many more proofs, but we won't detour any further on that for the present. Rather, in addressing specifically where the Benjamites went, we know first of all that the tribe remained loyal to Judah. Thus by 721 B.C. when the ten northern tribes were taken out of Canaanland and deported to areas around the Caucasus Mountains, we know that Benjamin was still in Canaanland with the tribe of Judah under the political name of the Kingdom of Judah.

About 150 years later, however, the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah and took both those tribes (and the Levites among them) and deported them to the areas around Babylon. There they remained in captivity (God's decreed punishment) for 70 years. Some time after the 70 years were accomplished and they were allowed to return home, only a small remnant of those tribes—less than a mere 50,000 people—returned to Jerusalem and to Galilee. Officially and legally from God's perspective, the tribe of Benjamin was with Judah back in old Canaanland. But what had happened to the vast majority of the Benjamite people who did not return?

First of all, we need to understand that at the time of the captivity of the ten northern tribes (ending in 721 B.C.,) that many of the Judahites and Benjamites who were not in the city of Jerusalem and its immediate environs, that they were taken captive along with the ten tribes. I am distinguishing between a large number—the majority of Benjamites and Judahites—

that went into captivity with the ten northern tribes as opposed to a much smaller number of Benjamites, Levites and Judahites who remained in the Judah kingdom and were, officially and legally, the Tribes of Benjamin, Levi, and Judah.

Just before the Babylonian invasions of the Kingdom of Judah began, the prophet Jeremiah gave a specific warning to the Benjamites. He instructed them:

**Jeremiah 6:1 O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Bethhaccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.**

We can assume that many of them did heed the warning and fled Jerusalem before the invasion. Since Babylon lay to the east—although the invasion actually came from the north because of the Fertile Crescent and the desert in between the Kingdom of Judah and Babylon—it is likely that they fled to the west.

Plus, we have already mentioned that some of them were obviously located in Asia Minor at the time of Paul the Benjamite. Shortly after Paul was martyred, the Roman armies prepared to besiege Jerusalem. But Jesus had warned his Benjamite disciples in advance to flee, just as Jeremiah had done about 600 years before. We read the words of Jesus:

**Luke 21:20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.**

**21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.**

Consequently, any Benjamite Christians who were still living around Jerusalem just before 70 A.D. recognized the signs that Jesus had given and so they quickly moved out of the area, probably joining other Benjamite believers in Asia Minor or elsewhere in Europe.

I quote now from William H. Bennett's book, *Symbols of Our Celto-Saxon Heritage*:

“Perhaps here we should note that Professor Hannay, in his *European Race Origins*, says that a part of the Tribe of Benjamin left the East about the year A.

D. 300 and went to what is now called Norway. Thus, among those who were later called Norsemen would be some who were of the Tribe of Benjamin. As all authorities agree that the emblem of the Tribe of Benjamin was a wolf...”

Let me interject here that it only makes sense that a wolf is a primary national emblem for Benjamin because of Jacob’s prophecy that Benjamin would “ravin as a wolf.” (Genesis 49:27) Continuing to quote:

“As all authorities agree that the emblem of the Tribe of Benjamin was a wolf, it follows that among the Norse ancestors of the Norwegians were some who would have this emblem. One of the most famous of them was called Rollo the Wolf. Further, it should be noted that some of the Clans of Scotland have a partial Norwegian ancestry and that several of these, or their Chieftains, have a Wolf as an emblem.”

Mr. Bennett later goes on to show that the tribes of Dan and Judah also have contributed to the gene pool in Norway. Now think a moment, why would some of the Scottish people have some Norwegian ancestry? It was because of the Viking invasions. Beginning in 789 A.D. and lasting well into the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the Vikings of Norway, Sweden and Denmark began making predatory raids on Scotland, England, Ireland, France and the territories of what is now called Germany.

Although those were the primary targets, the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (scholars’ edition published in 1911), states the Vikings raided and made settlements as far south as Spain and North Africa and from the south into Italy.

The Encyclopedia states: “We know that at the same time that some Scandinavian folk were harrying all the western lands, others were founding Russia in the east; others were pressing still farther south till they came into contact with the eastern empire in Constantinople...so that when [the Viking leaders] Hast- ing and Bjorn had sailed to Luna in the gulf of Genoa, [Italy] the northern folk had almost put a girdle round the Christian world.” (Emphasis and bracketed material mine.—JWB)

Before we continue with our serious study, I cannot resist but to make a little aside to our good friends, the Hastings family, up dere in dee nort country above Minneapolis, ja!

Some years ago, when I was visiting with John and Sue and their family, I was asking him if their Hastings ancestry were English. I was, of course, thinking of them being connected to the Battle of Hastings in 1066 A.D. (the Norman-French invasion of England).

John said yes, but that it probably would be more accurate to say they were Norwegian or Scandinavian. So there you have it, John, my good friend, I don’t know if you had access to this information from the 1911 Britannica, but this history shows that perhaps one of your forbears was a Viking leader whose ship sailed into Genoa, Italy and helped encircle the Christian world over a thousand years ago.

The word “Viking” itself comes from the Old Icelandic word “vikingr” which means a sea-rover or pirate. The same article states: “But even at the outset the vikings were more than isolated bands of freebooters. As we have seen, the viking outbreak was probably part of a national movement.”

In other words, they weren’t merely heathen pirates; they were looking for more land for their people to settle in. Indeed, an article on the Vikings in the 1958 *Worldscope Encyclopedia* states this:

“As pagans, the Vikings set out from the fjords of the Scandinavian coast in fleets of black galleys to fight the power of Christendom, which was sweeping Europe under the leadership of Charlemagne.

“By the middle of the 9<sup>th</sup> century they had overrun and settled in parts of Ireland, Western Scotland and England; in territories along the French rivers Rhone, Garonne, Loire, Seine and Somme; and in sections of the Rhineland and along the Elbe River in Germany...

“By the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> century...some were absorbed in the regions they occupied, notably in Normandy, where they adopted the Christian religion...”

Just make a mental note for now about how many of the Benjamites were not only the first to come to Christ, but many of them are also among the last of the tribes to come to Christ in their latter day homelands. Because it is only about this time, the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries that all the Scandinavian countries became Christian nations. But as Bennett implied, when they settled in Scotland or particularly in Normandy, they became Christians sooner rather than later.

So now we have this settlement of the Northmen, later shortened to “Normans,” in the coastal area of France. Once again, from William Bennett’s book, *The Story of Celto-Saxon Israel*:

“The last of our ancestors to arrive in Britain [Mr. Bennett is British] as a group were the Normans, who invaded and settled in England in A.D. 1066. Although they came into England from France, they were NOT of the French (Frankish) race.

“They were Norsemen from Scandinavia who had invaded and settled in northern France 150 years before their invasion of England. Scandinavia is comprised of Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and Iceland, whose inhabitants became known as Northmen because of their location in the far reaches of northwest Europe. This name in time was transformed in Norsemen and then the Normans. ...

“Henry Wheaton, in *History of the Northmen*, ... says that Scandinavia was originally called ‘Scania’ until Roman historian Pliny the Elder added the tribal name of ‘Dan’ due to their settlements there. The name therefore gives us a clue to their origins. Hannay says that the original name, ‘Scania’ developed from ‘Sak-ani,’ or ‘country of the Saks.’ The Sak, as we have shown, were the Hebrew descendants of the Patriarch Isaac.

“Historian Hannay traces these people to the Hebrew tribe of Benjamin, saying ‘The Normans—the last comers of all the various component elements of our nation—were probably the lineal representatives of the tribe of Benjamin.’”

A page or two later, Bennett quotes historian W. H. Milner, who is known by the pen name “Oxonian” in his prolific writings in British-Israel publications of a century ago. Quoting Milner from William Bennett’s book, *The Story of Celto-Saxon Israel*:

“In the year A.D. 267, as we are told by Professor Max Muller [in] *Lectures in the Science of Language, I:188*, ‘the Goths made a raid from Europe to Asia, Galatia, and Cappadocia, and the Christian captives, whom they carried back to the Danube, were the first to spread the light of the Gospel among the Goths.’”

This is historical fact, and any Hebrew-Christian captives taken to Europe would likely include many Benjamites, since the ten tribes had long before de-

parted in the previous Assyrian dispersion.

“The heraldry of the tribe of Benjamin was the Wolf. In Genesis 49:27 we read, ‘Benjamin shall ravine as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.’

“Historian Rudolf Poertner, in *The Vikings*, uses this language to describe them: ‘The chroniclers in their monasteries manufactured ravening wolves out of the Norse clans and peoples who burst out of their historical anonymity about 800 A.D., and then for three centuries filled the countries and seas of Europe with their noise, their temperament, their explosive vitality...The Viking sea wolves...crossed oceans and inland seas like riders crossing deserts and steppes...’”

In the next issue, we shall continue to explore how Bible prophecies about the Tribe of Benjamin have been fulfilled in history, ancient and modern.

---

*Expand your understanding of God’s Word with...*

## ***The Samaritans***

In this two-part audio Bible lecture, Dr. Bruggeman shows that the Samaritans were a people of mixed ancestry. Many Christians who understand our Israelite heritage have met some fellow believers who contend that *only* Israelites can be saved. This study shows otherwise.

While this lecture angered some people when it was first delivered at a Bible conference in 1998, others (including Kingdom-Israel ministers) have expressed gratitude for the clarity brought to this controversial subject. One lecture on two CDs. (CD #s 323 & 324) \$12 postpaid.

**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 blessed, 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.