



FEED MY SHEEP

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Issue #186

August 2014

The Tribe of Benjamin in Norway and Iceland

The Story of Joseph, Part 51

We are coming to the end of our studies of the deathbed prophecies of Jacob-Israel. Recall that these were given as Joseph and his brothers stood at the side of their dying father. Jacob prophesied over each of the brothers, in some cases giving very long-range predictions. We are now examining the predictions about the youngest of the sons, Benjamin.

For more on that, we turn to the relatively new book by Steven Collins, the fourth and last in his series of books about Israel from ancient times up to modern. This final volume is called *Israel's Tribes Today*. (See separate flier enclosed.) In approximately the last third of the book, Collins gives the evidence for why he identifies certain nations with certain tribes of Israel.

In the quote I am going to use, he begins by mentioning this Professor Herbert Hannay. He was an English historian who wrote a book called *European and Other Race Origins*. It was published in London in 1794. Quoting now from Collins:

“Herbert Hannay links the Benjaminites to the modern nation of Norway, a conclusion with which this book concurs. The biblical clue for Benjamin’s location in the modern world is limited, but indicative. ...”

Then Collins quotes Genesis 49:27 which we quoted in previous issues. Continuing...

“Wolves are indigenous to northern climates, indicating that Benjamin’s latter day territory will be in a northern latitude. The only European nation in a northern latitude not yet identified as one of the tribes of Is-

rael is Norway. By the process of elimination, Norway would seem to constitute modern Benjamin.

“Norway is a lightly populated nation, consistent with Benjamin historically having a small population among the Israelite tribes. Norway has traditionally had excellent relations with the British and Americans, which one would expect of the descendants of Benjamin, the tribe genetically closest to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. Since Iceland was populated by Viking Norseman, the Icelandic people are also likely of the tribe of Benjamin.

“The phrases ‘devouring the prey’ and ‘dividing the spoil’ do not describe today’s Norwegians, but they very aptly describe Norway’s Viking heritage. The Vikings were known for preying wolf-like on all the other nations of Europe, from bases in their northern coastlands.

“This parallels ancient times. Even as Benjamin warred against all the other tribes of Israel in a bloody civil war in biblical times, the Vikings also fought against all the other tribes of Israel who had migrated to various locations in Europe.

“The Vikings raided the British Isles and Western Europe and the Mediterranean coastlands of Europe as well. The Vikings also raided into and settled in the modern Ukraine and western Russian. *National Geographic Magazine* made this comment about their eastern forays:

‘By the early ninth century they [the Vikings] were navigating the Volga and the Dnieper to reach the mer-

chants of the Abbasid caliphate. By 860 they had attacked Constantinople...'

"The *National Geographic* also notes the prominence of wolves—the symbol in Genesis 49:27 for Benjamin—in Viking mythology and art. Historically, other Scandinavian people besides the ancient Norwegians comprised the Vikings; however, the Viking heritage seems most closely identified with Norway. ...

"Based on the biblical clues about Benjamin's location in the latter days, Norway best fulfills the prophecy of Genesis 49 about the tribe of Benjamin. Curiously, while Joseph's tribes were fated to become the most populous tribes of Israel, Joseph's brother, Benjamin, became the Israelite tribe with the smallest population. Therefore, we should expect modern Benjamin to be a nation with a small population and a rich heritage, answering to modern Norway."

Collins only briefly mentioned Iceland as also being of the stock of Benjamin. Other writers make a stronger case for Iceland, including Bennett in the works we quoted earlier, and Adam Rutherford, the great English scholar.

Rutherford was most famous for his five or six-volume work on the Great Pyramid of Egypt. Back in 1937, however, he had written a book called *Iceland's Great Inheritance* in which he traces the tribe of Benjamin through history. It will be beneficial for us to hear some of his findings as well:

"When we recall how the Benjamite Galileans believed and followed Jesus in great multitudes, as recorded in the Gospels, it is not surprising to find that W. H. M. Milner, in his work, *Israel's Wanderings*, states: 'The Asiatic Christians (of Asia Minor) of the first two centuries were mainly of the Tribe of Benjamin.'

"Until the third century the Benjamites remained in these provinces in comparative safety. But in A. D. 267, as stated by Professor Max Muller, the Goths from Europe raided Asia Minor, particularly Galatia and Cappadocia, and carried off the Christians as captives to the Danube.

"This branch of the Goths living in the Danube Valley were known as Dacians. Living in Dacia and intermarrying considerably with the Goths, these Benjamites after a few generations soon became known as

Dacians also; so that latterly, the Dacians were a Benjamite-Gothic people. Unfortunately, in course of time in their new environment, in Dacia, they gradually lapsed from the true faith, as they had often done before when they were in their own land of Canaan.

"That these Dacians or Benjamite-Goths subsequently moved northward into Scandinavia, and became the progenitors of the Norman and Icelandic Vikings is abundantly proved in the historical records. In the tenth century Dudo, who wrote the earliest history of the Normans, plainly says they were Dacians.

"Also, 'Duchesne, who collected the Norman Chronicles in the 17th century, states that the Normans were Dacians.' Several writers state that William the Conqueror, when leading the Normans into England in A.D. 1066 arrived with a wolf on his banner."

Rutherford then goes on to mention the Benjamin-wolf connection in Genesis and says "The fact that the Normans came to Britain under the standard of a wolf indicates, first of all, that we have traced the track of Benjamites, and secondly, that the Benjamin element was the predominating one in the Norman people. Quoting from *Iceland's Great Inheritance* once again:

"But when Rolf [aka] (Rollo) led his body of Vikings from Norway to the Outer Hebrides of Scotland and thence later to northern France, where they became known as Normans, his brother, Jarl-Hrollang at that same time led another party of these same Vikings to Iceland and he with fellow Vikings became the founders of the Icelandic nation, and as the Benjamin element predominated in the Normans, the same is true of those who went to Iceland, for they were the very same race of people.

"In Jewett's work on *The Normans*, the author, after describing the expedition of Rolf to the Scottish Hebrides and thence to France, and the emigration of his brother Turf-Emar and his Vikings to the Orkney Islands, says: 'Rolf's brother, who went to Iceland while Rolf came to Normandy...established in that storm-bound little country a nation of scholars and record-makers.'

'This company came in time to be renowned as the beginners of one of the most remarkable republics the World has ever known, with a unique government by its aristocracy, and a natural development of literature unsurpassed in any day. There, where there were

no foreign customs to influence or prevent, the Norse nature and genius had their perfect flowering.”

Rutherford goes on for several more paragraphs about the Normans in England which is all very compelling, and he informs us how the Normans intermingled with the Angles, Saxons, Celts (pronounced Kelts) Scottish, Welsh, English, Irish, etc., and so that today there is no separate body of people known as Normans. Then he writes:

“But in Iceland the matter is altogether different. The Vikings who settled there have not mixed with any other people, or been absorbed into any other race; and no other races have ever settled and remained in Iceland. The origin of the Icelandic people is indisputable, for as the well-known Icelander, Dr. Jon Stefansson says:

‘We possess the records and genealogies of many hundreds of the most prominent of these settlers, in the Book of Land-takes (Land-namabok). No other nation possess so full and detailed records of its beginnings.’

“Iceland is the most isolated country in Europe, and Icelandic intermarriages with other nationalities have been very rare... Consequently, the proportion of Benjamin blood in Icelanders to-day is as high as it was in the veins of the first settlers who came to the island more than a thousand years ago.

“Even those Vikings of Dacian descent who remained on the Norwegian coasts have now so intermarried with other people of Gothic origin that the Benjamin element can hardly be said to predominate. Iceland is therefore the only nation to-day who can be said to represent Benjamin.”

Now that is a fairly strong and exclusivist statement. Iceland is the *only* nation who can represent Benjamin? Actually, as we go on, we find that he modifies that somewhat. Once again I call your attention to our maps as I continue.

“After Iceland, the Benjamin element is next strongest in the population of the four small groups of islands between Iceland and Great Britain, viz., the Faroe Islands, and the Scottish Isles of Shetland Orkney and Outer Hebrides...”

Rutherford then asserts that these islands “are

doubtless included in the prophecy of Isaiah 24:14-16. These islands are like giant ‘stepping stones’ between Iceland and Scotland and are as a connecting link between the Icelanders and the British. ...”

He goes on and then here is where he modifies his previous exclusivist statement. He writes: “While Benjamite blood is thus by no means exclusively confined to Iceland, nevertheless, it is definitely strongest and purest there. Benjamin is therefore centered in Iceland.”

And with that, we would agree. Norway and these island groups certainly have strong Benjamite elements, and there are surely smaller elements of Benjamite blood in Normandy, France and elsewhere, but we agree that Iceland is the strongest candidate to fulfill the location of latter-day Benjamin.

We believe that to be fact, not only for the evidence Adam Rutherford has provided, but also because of another prophecy about Benjamin’s descendants which Rutherford for some reason apparently did not include.

This is in that long prophecy by Moses which includes blessings upon each of the tribes. We discussed some of these in connection with Jacob’s blessings upon the other sons, notably, Joseph. Remember the one about Joseph? How Joseph has horns like a bullock and a unicorn and he will push the people to the ends of the earth? And I mentioned how this is fulfilled in Great Britain and the USA and Canada because of how we still push people around with our superpower status.

Well, Moses’ blessing and prophecy about Benjamin is found in Deuteronomy 33, verse 12. It is one which we studied previously, in my lecture entitled *Unless Benjamin Is With You*. And this will be a little bit of repetition from that teaching, but with some new insights as well.

Actually, this repetition will be very good for all of us, myself included. Do you really think I actually remember everything I have ever lectured upon? Not on your life! So as I was reviewing *Unless Benjamin Is With You* I saw how good this would be for us to have refreshed in our minds some of the previous lessons before we are come to the end of our study of the life of Joseph the Overcomer. I do not mean to imply that we will finish next month, but we *are* getting

close to the end. Now the review and excerpt from my lecture *Unless Benjamin Is With You*.

As I stated previously, the Benjamite apostles and disciples constituted the very beginning of the church in the New Testament. They were the leaders, and they were the first parts of the body of Christ to be called into action.

If you picture the body of Christ, we have Jesus as the head, correct? If we have a normal birth from a woman's womb, what part of the body is born first? The head, of course! So, 2000 years ago, Jesus, the Head, was born. And what part of the body would be born next? What part of the body supports the head? The neck.

As Moses was prophesying over the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 33, he gave specific prophecies about each of the tribes. Notice in verse 12 what is foretold about the tribe of Benjamin.

Deuteronomy 33:12 *And of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the LORD [Yahweh] shall dwell in safety by him; and the LORD shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.*

Between HIS shoulders. Who is the word "his" referring to? It would seem to me that it is referring to Yahweh, because Yahweh is the nearest antecedent. There is no other antecedent in that whole verse! Therefore, it is prophesying that Benjamin's place in the body of Yahweh, which is the body of Christ, is between the shoulders. What part of your body is between your shoulders? The neck!

Then, immediately after Christ, the Head of the body, ascended into the heavenly realm, the neck came to birth, and began ministering to the rest of the body of Christians as they came to birth. Following this analogy, what part of the body would be the last to exit the womb? The feet, naturally! It was many years ago now, that I did a message about the Feet Company. Unfortunately, I had to withdraw it from circulation—I found too many boo-boo's in it, not the least of which was my attitude in those days. Maybe some day I will do another lecture on the Foot Company and try to correct those errors.

Anyhow, in the first century, the earliest Christians were from the tribe of Benjamin, the Light-

bearer. And how did Benjamin minister to them? It tells us in Ephesians 4.

Ephesians 4:11 *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

Count them: five functions, a five-fold ministry to the church. That is why at the dinner Joseph prepared for his brothers at which he revealed his identity to them, that Benjamin was given a blessing of food *five times* greater than the rest of the brothers. But were those five heapin' helpin's so that Benjamin gorge himself. No! The Benjamite-Israelite Christians were granted those spiritual blessings and aptitudes so that they could feed their brethren. As it says in the next verse, they were given...

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Isn't that a marvelous and beautiful prophetic picture given us in the Bible and also in the book of Jasher? And so in Joseph's dining hall, Benjamin has now ascended to sit next to his brother Joseph, and remember, Benjamin himself is unaware that this great ruler of Egypt is his very own brother.

Clearly, Joseph ruling Egypt is a type of Jesus ruling the world. Is this possibly also prophetic in that many Christian overcomers will "come up hither" to be seated in places of authority, ruling with Christ, and for a brief time—like Benjamin—they still will not know that they are indeed the physical descendants of Israel and the brothers of Christ Jesus after the flesh? ... as well as after the Spirit? And if that will be the case, then according to the story in Jasher, it will not remain that way except for a very brief time. We will continue there in Jasher next time.

Unless Benjamin Is With You A two-part lecture by Dr. Bruggeman on two CDs. \$10 ppd.

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