

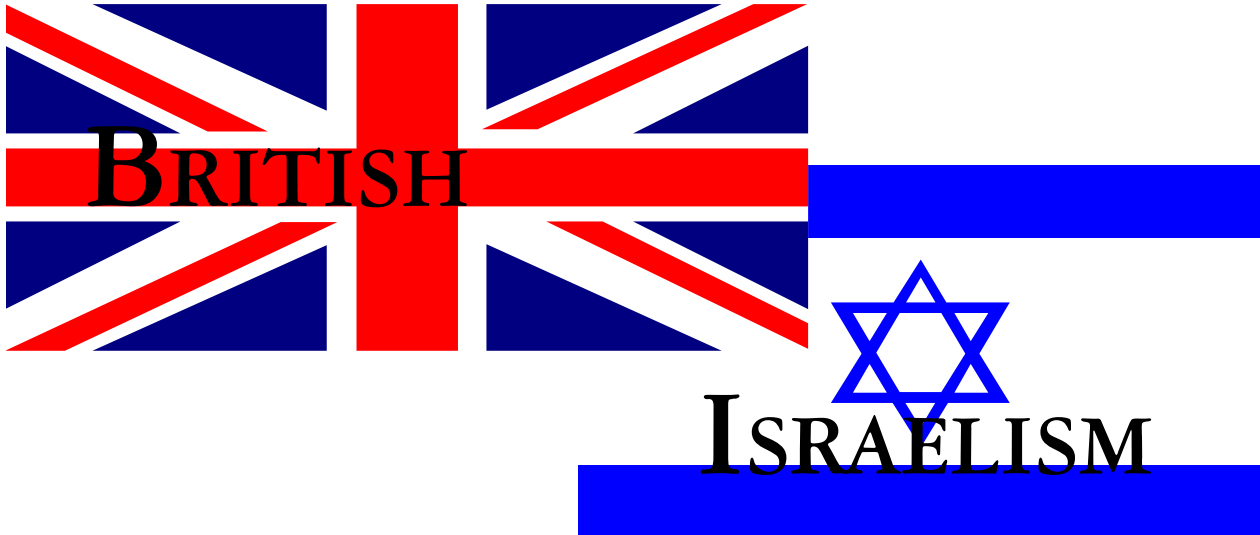


Sentinel

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2nd Qtr 2003



In dealing with British Israelism we are faced with some questions. Are ten of the twelve tribes of Israel really lost? Are the inhabitants of Great Britain descendants of the tribe of Ephraim and are the inhabitants of the USA of the tribe of Manasseh?

This group and its derivatives teach that the words “Jew” and “Israel” have different meanings. To see if that is so we need to look at Scripture.

BASIC TEACHING

These and other questions are directly related to what is known as British-Israelism or Anglo-Israelism. This group teaches that after the capture by the Assirians around 800 B.C., the ten tribes lost their national identity, however, they maintain that these tribes went westward through Northern Europe, became the ancestors of the Saxons who later invaded Europe—hence the theory that the Anglo Saxons are the ten lost tribes. Consequently the white English speaking people are really the chosen people of God.

Exponents of British-Israelism developed this further so that the tribe of Ephraim is seen as the people of England and Manasseh as those of the USA, thus those who hold to these theories see many prophecies directly related to these countries.

As a result it is believed and propagated by these groups that the throne of David is actually the royal throne of England.

“Force-fitting” things like this can also be seen in their distorted efforts to make Great Britain and the USA fit into the pages of the Bible. They see similarities between countries and what the Bible says as direct connections, even if no substance for such conclusions exist. Armstrong taught that the word “isles” (islands) in the Bible referred to the British Islands. With this kind of logic any of the numerous islands of the world could be made to fit into Scripture. This same logic led to the teaching about the royal throne of England.

JEWES AND ISRAELITES

Herbert W Armstrong, founder of the World Wide Church of God—a church that repented from all his heresies—in his time made the following statements:

“We want to impress here that Israel and Judah are not two names for the same nation. They were and still are, and shall be until the Second Coming of Christ, two separate nations. The House of Judah always means Jew. This distinction is vital if we are to understand prophecy. Because most so-called Bible students are ignorant of this basic distinction; they are unable rightly to understand prophecy! The next place where the term ‘Jew’ is mentioned in the Bible, the House of Israel had been driven out in captivity, lost from view, and the term only applies to those of the House of Judah. There are no exceptions in the Bible.” (*Where are the Ten Lost Tribes?* - As quoted in *Examining the Cults*, Harold J Berry, Pub: Back to the Bible, 1979:26)

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Sentinel is die lyfblad van **KIES** en word kwartaalliks gepubliseer om die gemeenskap in te lig en te waarsku teen misleiding, die ware Evangelie te verkondig en die Kerk bewus te maak van die gevare wat die dwaalleer van die kultes inhou. *Sentinel* is the mouthpiece of **KIES** and is published quarterly to inform and warn the community against deception, to spread the true Gospel and to alert the Church against the heresy of the cults.

'n Interkerklike Evangelisasie en Uitreik-aksie/An Interdenominational Evangelization Outreach

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KIES funksioneer as 'n arm van die Ned Geref Gemeente Edleen en is verantwoordelik vir eie finansiering en is dus ten volle afhanklik van die vrywillige donasies van *Sentinel* se lesers en ander ondersteuners.

Redaksioneel/Editorial

SO LATE!!!!

As promised in the last issue which you have received so long ago, this issue contains an article about British-Israelism. In stead of re-inventing the wheel, I searched the Net and found quite a number of good articles. The published article is a result of this search which I found quite good. However, the first few paragraphs are based on an article of some 3 decades ago from a little book on cults which I have in my library.

Now I also could have gone to the trouble of translating the articles we published in Afrikaans a few years ago in *Sentinel*, but as you already have that specific issue I thought it better to give you a different view. However, if you do not have it as you may not have received *Sentinel* at that time or lost yours and would like a copy then please let us know and a copy will be posted to you free of charge.

I can only apologise that you waited so long for the second edition of 2003 and am not even going to try and explain why this is so. Personally I am just very happy that it has now reached the point where it will be duplicated and posted. Enjoy reading it!!

Our webpage which is at

<http://www.gksa.org.za/kies>

drew some reaction from members of the Old Apostolic Church of Africa. Their reaction and our response to their objections, enquiries, queries and response have been published on the webpage as we thought it best to make it available to all who visit our webpage and are interested in reading this.

In the last issue we informed you about our first CD which contains a wealth of information including our 300 page *Kulte Evangelisering-handleiding*. Information can be found on the website. However for those of you who do not have access to the internet, the CD is available at the ridiculously low price of R100,00 excluding postage and packaging. If you compare this with the current price of a hard copy of the cult guide of R200,00 then you are really getting more than your money's worth.

At a **KIES** management meeting earlier this year we planned our calendar for 2004 and decided that we will hold a

Cult Awareness Weekend Camp

Dates and venue as well as the programme will be made available later.

We have also decided on a name change and a new logo. We will tell you more about this in the next issue, which I can assure you will follow soon after this one. I also plan to complete the four issues this year before the close of 2003. So it means some heavy going for the next two or so months.

It would only be appropriate to thank you for bearing with us and more than anything your loyal support in the form of prayers and especially to those who continue with their financial support. Without your contributions our hands are as good as amputated.

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Whether the various groups that share this view took it from the late Armstong or not, we still need to look at Scripture to see whether this is so or not.

In Genesis chapter 1-11 we see God working with people generally. But in chapter 12 He changes this method and calls one man—Abram, who was first called a “Hebrew”. (14:13). He gives him a new name—Abraham (17:5) and says that “...a father of many nations have I made thee.” We can, therefore, conclude that this title could also be applied to all his physical descendants.

Then with Jacob, Abraham’s grandson we see the introduction of a new term, “Israel”. (32:28) Consequently it would be right to refer to the descendants of Jacob, who are also descendants of Abraham, both as “Hebrews” and “Israelites.”

One generation later, when Jacob/Israel was blessing his sons (Gen 49) we see Judah (29:35) included in the words “All these are the twelve tribes of Israel”. (49:28) With Judah as the head of one tribe it is natural to understand they were of the tribe of Judah, yet they were part of Israel. In 2 Kings 16:6 we see the first use of the term “Jew”, a word derived from Judah.¹

Therefore, a member of the tribe of Judah was called a “Jew”, but he was also an “Israelite” and as descendant of Abraham also a Hebrew.

THE KINGDOMS

The united kingdom was ruled by kings Saul, David and Solomon. (1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-11) When Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, indicated that he would be even harder on them than his father, ten tribes under Jeroboam seperated from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Thus the ten tribes (north) under Jeroboam were commonly known as Israel and those under Rehoboam as Judah (south). Judah was a much larger tribe than that of Benjamin, hence his name took priority as a name for the southern tribe.

The Assyrians took the northern tribes captive. According to their custom they deported most of the captives and brought in other peo-

ples to mix with them. In this way the Assyrians ensured that the captives could not regain power. These became the Samaritans, in Jesus time, a mixed and despised race. (2 Kings 17:24)

We now have one more question to deal with, and that is; did the ten tribes disappear completely off the scene, or are they mentioned elsewhere in the Bible?

Those groups who hold to this view generally refer to 2 Kings 17:18-23, generally placing emphasis on verse 18; “Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.” They conclude that only the two tribes of Judah remained.

However, let us look more closely at Scripture.

Palestine was the land in which God dealt especially with His people. As long as they walked according to His laws they remained in the land. When they became disobedient to Him, he allowed them to be taken captive and taken from Palestine. Therefore, God’s presence was very special, albeit the fact that they believed Him to be omnipresent.

The history of Jonah serves as an example: He thought he could flee from God’s presence by leaving the land. (Jonah 1:3)

It is clear then that the words “out of his sight” only mean the ten tribes were removed from Palestine. The words “So was Israel carried away out of their own land” in 2 Kings 17:23 make it clear they continued to exist.

It is also clear from the New Testament that the ten tribes were not obliterated.

We notice for instance that Anna the prophetess was of the tribe of Aser, “...there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser.” (Luke 2:36) Paul stated before king Agrippa: “And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope’s sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.” (Acts 26:6,7) And Peter spoke of, “...the strangers scattered throughout

Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia...” (1 Peter 1:1) Further confirmation comes from James who addresses the twelve tribes: “...to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad...” (James 1:1) If the ten tribes no longer existed why would James address them in his letter?

The Revelation to John makes it clear that from each tribe 12,000 were saved. (Rev 7:4-8)

With this evidence it is logical to ask those who teach that the ten tribes disappeared off the scene, why would the apostles of the New Testament mention that they still existed, and why would the Holy Spirit have driven Paul to write: “And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob” (Rom 11:26)

Paul stated strongly: “...of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews...” (Phil 3:5) “I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus...” (Acts 21:39) It almost seems as if Paul had to deal with similar teachings in his day when he asks: “Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. (2 Cor 11:22)

If, as these groups teach the term “Jew” only refers to the tribe of Judah, then Jesus could not have been the Messiah or King of the nation of Israel, for He is called the “King of the Jews.” (Luke 23:3) This statement would make Him King and Messiah of Judah ONLY, which surely is absurd! Scripture testifies to the fact that He is Messiah and King of all Israel. Even the notice placed above His head by Pontius Pilate stated clearly: “THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.” (Matt 27:37) Even in His days the term “Jew” was synonymous with “Israel”, something British-Israelites try to tell us is not so.

But let Prof E. Odlum, who actually was a member of this group and who states: “I was a confirmed believer in and a devoted propagandist of British Israelism” tell us more:

THE CHOSEN NATION

When Christ - the Messiah - came unto the physical nation of Israel at

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“Jehovah’s Witnesses cost me my family”

For those familiar with Jehovah’s Witnesses, this story is both common and predictable. Notice the outright deception of Dennis Charland, (public affairs director for the Witnesses’) who denies this kind of story is true. In fact this kind of story is so common TODAY, that only a liar would try to deny it. But Jehovah’s Witnesses are instructed to lie to “unbelievers” to hide the “truth”, so what do you expect Charland to say? We would love Charland to challenge us for libel, so we could bring into court, the huge number of known cases in Canada alone where this has happened.

We know first hand of a man who was given an ultimatum: “Try to keep your children out of the kingdom hall and your wife will divorce you.” This man was terrified and the story of Arnold Fox below is proof that Jehovah’s Witnesses are a dangerous cult that destroys families.

ARNOLD FOX has kept it bottled up for 25 years.

He doesn’t want to appear crazy. “People just don’t believe that these things take place, and they do,” says Fox, 67. The retired Fall River man says the Jehovah’s Witnesses had a role in the 1975 disappearance of his wife and two youngest children.

Grief-stricken, Fox paid a private investigation company to pursue the family across Canada. But he has never seen them again.

It’s a startling tale, which Randy Duplak, his lawyer at the time, remembers to this day. “It was an unbelievable scenario that people just wouldn’t co-operate, denied knowledge, denied knowing where his wife and children were,” says Duplak, now a provincial government lawyer. “It was almost like a spy game you see on a TV movie. You didn’t see it in real life.” Duplak says he had no reason to doubt Fox’s theory, because Fox appeared credible

and had been “an insider” - a Witness - until being evicted from the group, or disfellowshipped, two months before his family vanished.

Fox says smoking was the reason he was given for being kicked out of the Witness congregation in Dartmouth’s Woodlawn area. Smoking is still grounds for being disfellowshipped. Fox had smoked “for a thousand years . . . played the fiddle and drank and all that good stuff” after running away from his Halifax home, and his Jehovah’s Witness mother, at age 16.

Within five or six years he returned and, on May 11, 1957, he married Catherine Lilley Brecknell in Bethany United Church in Halifax.

Influenced by Fox’s mother, Catherine converted to the Witnesses. Fox got involved “to a degree,” though he says it was half-hearted.

Sadly, his wife suffered from mental illness and attempted suicide twice, he says. In 1965, she took their young son Terry and left Arnold, aided in hiding by Witnesses in Toronto, he says. He found her and, “after having to talk to about 16 bloody Witnesses,” brought her home.

Afterwards, they lived what Fox calls “a roller-coaster ride.” According to 1974-75 medical records contained in Fox’s legal file, and which he has allowed Duplak to show to The Sunday Herald, the Foxes shared an “unhappy” and even “unhealthy” relationship. Duplak says the medical records were obtained to satisfy lawyers that Catherine wasn’t running because Fox



was abusive.

In 1975, the couple was living on Bella Vista Drive in Dartmouth and had three children - Terry, 17, Daniel about eight, and Coleen, about six.

“I’d had enough religion - and that’s putting it in very short form - but the last thing I had said was, ‘The children shall no longer attend the Kingdom Hall,’” Fox says.

He knew that made him vulnerable with the Witnesses, because as the father and an obvious doubter, he could try to override the group’s ban on blood transfusions if his children were under medical care.

Fox was summoned to the nearby Kingdom Hall to appear before a judicial committee. He went, knowing he was to be disfellowshipped.

Using smoking as the grounds “was a ploy. They had to use something. . . . The point is, they couldn’t have helped (my wife) away on a permanent basis unless I was disfellowshipped. . . . And two months later, they were gone.”

On Aug. 24, 1975, Fox returned home with Daniel and discovered his wife had fled with Coleen.

On Sept. 15, Daniel "was picked up at school, a ticket was put around his neck and he was put on board a flight to Toronto" to meet his mother, Fox says.

He says son Terry, a devout Witness who would soon marry, admitted that he and "others" had taken Daniel to the Halifax airport. This story is contained in Fox's affidavit dated Oct. 28, 1977, which was filed with the courts in the preliminary stages of Fox's child-custody application. The affidavit was also used to access telephone records in the search for the family. Fox later dropped the custody proceeding because he could not locate the children.

The Sunday Herald tracked down Terry Fox at his home in Lethbridge, Alta. He is still a Jehovah's Witness. He is hesitant to discuss his father's allegations. But he does not deny Arnold Fox's version of events. He will only say his father is being unfair about the role of Jehovah's Witnesses in the affair. "The family didn't ever split up over religious reasons," says Terry Fox, 41. "It was such a wild situation. It was so odd and all the rest of it. I don't feel able to elaborate and lay the rest of it on the table."

Terry Fox says he last spoke with his father in 1977 and "left the ball in Dad's court" as far as future contact. "I haven't heard from him since."

An ex-Witness supports Arnold Fox's story, saying he knew the elder who helped take Daniel to the airport. That elder has since died, he says.

By the time Daniel disappeared, Fox had already hired Duplak, a young lawyer then with the Dartmouth firm Weldon Misener and Covert. The matter was "the kidnapping of his child, Coleen Heather Fox," Duplak alleged in his Nov. 10, 1977, affidavit filed in the early stages of the child-custody application.

Duplak squirrelled away Fox's file because the case was so intriguing. Inside are the photographs Fox supplied

to help identify his family. One shows a smiling young girl and an older boy standing outside, barefoot and proudly holding a fish between them. Another shows Catherine, with a beehive hairdo and glasses, posing with the two boys near a lake. The third photo is a shot of a young Arnold, Catherine and two of the children huddling against the wind.

The loss of the children left Fox "almost out of my mind with grief and sadness." He also feared for their safety because he believed Catherine was suicidal.

He says he went immediately to police, who told him it wasn't a crime for a mother to take her children. (In 1982, the Criminal Code was amended to make it an offence for a parent to abduct his or her child, even when there is no court custody order.)

Fox says police were able to verify that the children were OK, but said they could do nothing further.

Fox asked Duplak to hire private investigators, and World Investigation Service of Toronto was chosen. (The firm no longer appears in the telephone directory.)

From November 1975 until October 1976, investigators followed the family from Toronto to various addresses in Victoria, B.C., always coming up short.

Fox had learned through a friend in airport security, who is now dead, that the limousine carrying Daniel had gone to a Toronto address, but this was a string of over 100 townhouses.

Because Fox wanted the search done quietly to keep the family from bolting, investigators opted against banging on each of those 100-plus doors.

In a letter to Duplak dated March 5, 1976, World Investigation Service reported they had noticed a Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall near the townhouse development, but "following Sunday services . . . no one resembling the photographs of Mrs. Fox was observed."

Duplak says there was little police could

do. Fox's file refers to a Dartmouth police investigation running from August 1976 until Feb. 16, 1977. Police concluded Catherine and the children might have moved to the United States. That lead was checked, but the U.S. Consulate in Victoria reported Catherine Fox had not applied for an immigration visa. Fox even speculated that the family had changed its name.

In his 1977 affidavit, Duplak stated, "Our investigations show and I do verily believe that Catherine Fox and Coleen Heather Fox (and Daniel Patrick Fox) were transported by members of the Jehovah Witness sect . . . (and) are being harboured and hidden by members of the sect."

Today, Duplak still thinks Catherine had help. "Somebody had to be helping them, for whatever reason she might have left," he says. "It was impossible to trace. It was well done. . . . There were no mistakes."

Dennis Charland, public affairs director for the Witnesses' governing Watchtower Bible and Tract Society in Canada, says there would be nothing wrong with fellow Witnesses helping a woman who wants to leave her husband.

Charland cannot comment on Fox's story, but says, "to suggest that (his family disappeared) because of the church, well, that's heresy. "We have nothing to hide," Charland said from Halton Hills, Ont.

In metro, community relations chairman Grant Avery said he does not know the circumstances of Fox's case. "We keep those matters (of disfellowship and membership) very confidential, and the individuals, they know that as well," Avery says. During the three or four years following the disappearance, Fox also hired police officers in British Columbia and Ontario to do private sleuthing for him. He says he spent about \$15,000 trying to find his children.

"Quite frankly, I would rather deal with the Mafia than deal with that organization," he says with bitterness.

Continued from page 3

His first advent, John 1:11 records, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." In fact, not only did they reject Him, but they nailed Him to a tree. In His earthly ministry, and knowing what was coming, Christ asked the religious Jewish leaders, "Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, **THE KINGDOM OF GOD SHALL BE TAKEN FROM YOU, AND GIVEN TO A NATION BRINGING FORTH THE FRUITS THEREOF.** And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder" (Matthew 21:42-44).

This discourse showed these religious Jews that because of Israel's wanton rejection of Him, He would bring the Gentile nations to Himself. No longer would these nations be drowned in darkness or be utterly deceived by the devil. Rather, they would be the special focus of His mercy.

The person outlined in this passage as "the Stone is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. In this reading, Christ contrasts between His dealings with those of this chosen nation and those of the wicked. It is Christ alone who breaks the stubborn will of man and brings him into perfect union with an offended God.

Evidently, this chosen nation is NOT a physical earthly nation but a spiritual heavenly nation. This is clearly seen in the Lord's wording - it would be a nation that brings forth the spiritual fruits of the Kingdom of God. Undoubtedly, Christ is talking about the Church.

So what are these fruits?

Romans 14:17-18 explicitly says, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but (1) righteousness, and (2) peace, and (3) joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things (a) serveth Christ (b) is acceptable to God, and (c) approved of men."

Such attributes belong SOLELY to the Church of Jesus Christ, therefore, NO ONE has the authority to apply this passage to a physical earthly nation; such is a blatant mis-

interpretation of the text and an undermining of truth. Those who belong to this nation are thus among the many who have fallen upon the Stone - Christ Jesus - and have been broken in true repentance. This is in stark contrast to the Christ rejecter to whom the Stone will fall upon and "grind him to powder."

Peter says, of this chosen nation - the Church, in 1 Peter 2:9, "ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

We again see that this nation is no ordinary earthly domain, but a peculiar "holy nation." The word holy or 'hagion' which is employed here is used constantly throughout the New Testament and is exclusively applied to God, the things of God, God's people and His Divine Kingdom. This chosen holy nation can ONLY be spiritually entered.

This nation is identified by three other specific spiritual titles:

- 1) "a chosen generation"
- 2) "a royal priesthood."
- 3) "a peculiar people"

No SENSIBLE Bible student could attribute these unique spiritual descriptions, which explicitly and exclusively relate to the Church, to a visible carnal nation. Rather they pertain to the Divine structure that transcends every physical landmass and which has its capital city in the heavenly domain. This reading refers in notable detail to the Church of Jesus Christ. The Church being here described as a nation, "a holy nation," which is under intimate Divine control. This nation cannot be observed with the natural eye but rather can only be seen through the spiritual eye.

This nation uniquely manifests "forth the praises of him (Christ) who hath called [them] out of darkness into his marvellous light." It is the Church alone who has been called "out of darkness into his (Christ's) marvellous light." This cannot (or does not) refer to a physical earthly nation. Colossians 1:12-13 says, "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."

The Scriptures here show how the child of God has been removed from the world of darkness and placed into the jurisdiction of Christ's marvellous light. No physical earthly nation can exclusively boast of this glorious Divine honour. This chosen people is the universal Church of God - a peculiar spiritual nation.

Paul refers to Deuteronomy 32:21, in Romans 10:19-21, saying, "Moses saith, I will provoke you (natural Israel) to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you."

He continues, supporting his line of reasoning by referring to Isaiah 65:1, "Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."

This foolish people that has graciously found God without first seeking him is His blood-bought elect - His Church - throughout time. Those of all kindreds, tongues and tribes, who have come to God through Christ in true repentance. That elect people are NOT a physical earthly nation but a spiritual invisible Kingdom. Jesus said of that Church, in John 15:16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

THE TRUE ISRAELITES

The Israel of God today is not limited to a physical carnal earthly nation, but rather to an eternal heavenly spiritual nation. That nation is called the Church, which transcends every land boundary, ethnic group, colour and creed. It includes Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, free and bond alike, and is God's ONLY structure on this earth, since the cross, by which man can enter into intimate union with God. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Prior to Calvary, the Gospel was largely restricted to the physical nation of Israel apart from the occasional rare conversion of a Gentile like Ruth or Rahab or the exceptional Gentile city of Ninevah. The world in general was deceived not knowing anything about the grace of God or His merciful way of salvation. Ephesians 2:11-13 declares, "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

Those who were hitherto aliens and strangers to Almighty God, being outside of His intimate plan and purpose, have now graciously been "made nigh by the blood of Christ." Through Calvary, the people of God - the Church - have thus entered into:

- (1) Christ
- (2) The commonwealth of Israel
- (3) The covenants of promise
- (4) Having hope.
- (5) Knowing God in this world

Jew and Gentile have now been graciously merged together in the, spiritual, Israel of God - the Church. That Church is a spiritual entity and comes under many significant descriptions in the New Testament. Galatians 6:15-16 says, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature (being born again). And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon THE ISRAEL OF GOD."

Here the Israel of God is specifically related to those who have been born again of the Spirit of God. They (and they alone) have been made citizens of spiritual Israel - the Kingdom of Almighty God. Jesus confirms this in John 3:3, saying, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

The Church ('the ekklesia' or 'called out ones') is the Israel of God today and includes all those who

have put their trust in Christ's atoning blood. It is a spiritual nation and is the sole spiritual descendent of Abraham today. Only those natural Jews who come to Christ in faith can enter into salvation and into the spiritual lineage of Abraham. The Bible expressly declares, "For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the (fleshly) seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, in Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed" (Romans 9:6-8).

The favour of God is upon His people - the Church. Those who try and relate such to a fleshly earthly nation normally promote their nationalistic prejudice, which they have been foolishly taught. In doing so, they do injury to God's precious truth and dishonestly misrepresent Holy Writ.

Galatians 3:7-9 explains, "Know ye therefore that THEY WHICH ARE OF FAITH, THE SAME ARE THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."

Verse 16 continues, "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds (plural), as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ."

The seed of Abraham is the spiritual Israel - the Church - those who have accepted Christ BY FAITH as their Saviour. They, and they alone, are the true spiritual offspring of promise. Galatians 3:27-29 says, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye ABRAHAM'S SEED, AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE."

The Church is the only body by which 'the whosoever' can know the joy of sins forgiven. It is only those who belong to this spiritual nation

that will realise true salvation.

The Church is not only described as "the Israel of God" being part of "the commonwealth of Israel," it is also described as "the circumcision." Philippians 3:3 boldly declares, of the Church, "FOR WE ARE THE CIRCUMCISION, WHICH WORSHIP GOD IN THE SPIRIT, AND REJOICE IN CHRIST JESUS, AND HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH."

The Christian today is therefore the spiritual circumcision of the spiritual Israel.

Colossians 2:9-11 says, "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also YE ARE CIRCUMCISED WITH THE CIRCUMCISION MADE WITHOUT HANDS, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ."

The Jew that has entered into intimate communion with God today is spiritual, not physical. Romans 2:28-29 says, "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But HE IS A JEW, WHICH IS ONE INWARDLY; AND CIRCUMCISION IS THAT OF THE HEART, IN THE SPIRIT, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."

The Christian today is therefore a spiritual Jew of the spiritual Israel.

Footnotes:

1. **Jew:** The name derived from the patriarch Judah, at first given to one belonging to the tribe of Judah or to the separate kingdom of Judah 2 Ki 16:6; 25:25 Jer 32:12; 38:19; 40:11; 41:3 in contradistinction from those belonging to the kingdom of the ten tribes, who were called Israelites. During the Captivity, and after the Restoration, the name, however, was extended to all the Hebrew nation without distinction Es 3:6,10; Da 3:8,12; Ezr 4:12; 5:1,5 Originally this people were called Hebrews Ge 39:14; 40:15; Ex 2:7 3:18; 5:3 1 Sa 4:6,9 etc., but after the Exile this name fell into disuse. (*Easton's Bible Dictionary*)

For more information:

<http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/britisrael.html>
<http://www.nireland.com/evangelicaltruth/bi.html>
<http://www.gospelcom.net/apologeticsindex/b72.html>
http://www.preteristarchive.com/mistakenID/adelaide_mi_01.html
http://www.preteristarchive.com/MistakenID/adelaide_mi_02.html
<http://www.biblicalexaminer.org/bident.shtml>

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Fox moved to Newfoundland, trying to forget. He met Betty, whom he would later marry and have a son with. It was a new life.

But when Fox returned to Nova Scotia around 1980, the tragedy hit him all over again. "I folded up for about two months. There were just too many nights I sat in that old La-Z-Boy of mine and cried my eyes out," he says. "I don't care who the man is, unless he's made of granite, it literally tears you apart."

In 1983, he started divorce proceedings against Catherine. Not knowing her whereabouts, he had the papers deliv-

ered to her sister in P.E.I. He did not hear from Catherine, and the uncontested divorce was granted on June 4, 1984. Fox stated in documents he did not know the children's whereabouts and did not request custody.

Last Valentine's Day, his daughter Coleen telephoned out of the blue, and they had an awkward 15-minute conversation. He learned his ex-wife had committed suicide about three years earlier. Coleen said she was calling from Western Canada, that she was married to an older man and had children. Fox assumed she was still a Witness. She promised to write and send photos of the grandchildren he has never seen. She has not contacted him since. "There were a lot of things I

would love to ask her. I don't know where all this fear comes from (on her part), because as children ages six and seven, when I came home, they'd come running to me with open arms, and we had a great rapport."

Fox has heard that his oldest son is in Alberta, is married and has children. He hasn't tried to contact him again, because "it would be to no avail. He won't speak to me."

He has no idea what became of Daniel.

(Acknowledgement: Sunday, February 13, 2000 The Halifax Herald Limited By Susan LeBlanc / Staff Reporter SUNDAY EXTRA, as published on <http://www.freeminds.org>)

Jack Deere's Doctrinal Confusion

Thanks to mentors like John Wimber, C. Peter Wagner, Chuck Kraft from Fuller as well as Paul Cain and others, Jack Deere had his orthodox view of theology systematically dismantled. He then became instrumental in introducing the Third Wave to millions of Christians who trusted him because he had been a professor at Dallas Theological Seminary through his books "Surprised By The Power Of The Spirit" and "Surprised By The Voice Of God." Though these books have some precious truths in them, they also contain heresy. That is how false teachers ply their trade. They lay error alongside truth so that the unsuspecting and undiscerning will not be able to tell the difference between what is true and what is not. Following are a few examples of just how far away from orthodoxy Deere has gone.

THE GOSPEL

In 1990, at a Charismatic Conference in the States, where Wimber and Deere were the speakers, Dr. Deere was questioned in a friendly conversation, as follows:

Questioner: I wonder if you might tell me why you felt my explanation of the Gospel given yesterday was defective. [I said that Christ died for our sins, was buried, raised on the third day, and that it is this Gospel by which we are saved.]

Dr. Deere: I am not prepared to talk about that.

Questioner: Well, just offhand, what do you think the Gospel is?

Dr. Deere: I am not prepared to make a formal statement about that.

Questioner: Could you tell me informally what the Gospel is?

Dr. Deere: I am not sure.

Questioner: I find that surprising—that

you are not sure just what the Gospel is.

Dr. Deere: I used to be just like you — thinking the Gospel was simply justification.

Questioner: Are you saying that the Gospel is more than justification by faith?

Dr. Deere: Yes.

Questioner: What would you add to it?

Dr. Deere: Deliverance.

Questioner: What do you mean by deliverance?

Dr. Deere: Things like demons and healing and....

Questioner: You would add as an essential part of the saving Gospel things like exorcising of demons and healing?

Dr. Deere: Yes.

Questioner: But you are not sure exactly what should be included?

Dr. Deere: No, not yet.

Questioner: Would it be fair to say that you are in a state of flux since joining the Wimber thing?

Dr. Deere: We are always in a state of flux — you are....

Questioner: But in the Gospel message? Surely that is one thing we should have worked out. Don't you think we can reduce the Gospel to some sort of summary statement like Paul does in say 1 Corinthians 1 and 2, or 15; or 1 Thessalonians 4, or Romans 5?

Dr. Deere: [No response, except a shrug of the shoulders.]

Questioner: Do you think the Apostle Paul had anything particular in mind when he wrote to Timothy and asked him to guard the Gospel that had been entrusted to him? Are you saying that you couldn't go back into that pavilion and tell those people the Gospel?

Dr. Deere: No, not yet.

Questioner: When do you think you could do it? Dr. Deere: Maybe five years, maybe ten.... (From Biblical Perspectives, July-Aug. 1990, p. 5.)

OT EXEGESIS

In Biblical Perspectives, Sept.-Aug. 1990, p. 3, Dr. Thomas Ice reported that "Dr. Jack Deere gave a message entitled "Joel's Army" — his explanation of what the Church is going to be like in just a few years:

Heretofore in history we have only had one Moses on the scene. Only one Elijah, and only one Elisha at a time. Among the Apostles we only have one Paul, one John, one Peter — a few of those were really outstanding.

Heretofore we have only had one or two mighty servants of God on the face of the earth at a time. This is not true any longer! When this army comes, Joel says, there will have been nothing like it before. Revelation hints at this when it talks about the 144,000 that follow the Lamb wherever He goes. A powerful Army with many Pauls, and many Moseses, and many Davids.

"Dr. Deere is saying that the soon-coming Latter Rain revival will be carried out by those who are in "Joel's Army," which he also equates with the 144,000 witnesses from Revelation 7. Dr. Deere has gone a long way from what he was as one of my Hebrew professors at Dallas Seminary!"

(Acknowledgment: Deception in the Church from <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.org>)
