

DRY BONES AND THE TWO STICKS

First of all in Ezekiel 37 the first portion is speaking concerning the dry bones, a valley of lifeless bones with no sinews or flesh. The Lord asked the prophet if he thought the bones could live (again). The prophet responds, as saying Lord only you know.

So who did these bones belong to? The Lord tells Ezekiel “these bones are the whole house of Israel, “ [v11]. Who say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.”

Not A Physical But Spiritual Event

Israel became divided after Solomon, into two houses, of Judah and of Northern Israel. Many believe that the entire Northern House was destroyed or swallowed up by the nations (Gentiles) and no longer a recognizable people, therefore leaving the only indefinable part of Israel to be the House of Judah, but let's see what the Lord has to say about it. Beginning with verse 15 of Ezekiel 37, the Lord tells the prophet to take a stick and mark it Judah. Then he told him to take another stick and mark it Joseph (the stick of Ephraim). Why Ephraim? Well if we read in Gen 48: 5-20, we see where Joseph had two sons Manasseh and Ephraim. Ephraim was the younger of the two and Jacob (Israel) whose eyes were dim (his sight was almost gone), Israel crossed his hand to pass his blessing onto his youngest grandson. When Joseph tried to stop his father, to tell him that the his right hand was on the younger for the blessing, Israel told him that he knew what he was doing and continued with the blessing.

Once again this follows suit with Isaac instead of Ishmael receiving the blessing of God through Abraham; and Jacob, himself who was the younger (hardly minutes while holding his brother's heel). Jacob took his brother's, Esau birthright, and through his cunningness and that of his mother, also received the blessing of Isaac. Joseph was the favorite of Jacob and made him the boy a coat of many colors which not only representative of Joseph's gift for dreams and dream interpretation (which got him into trouble by the way), but also representative of the many skins of the nations.

In looking further into Ezekiel's prophecy, the Lord tells the prophet to put the two sticks together. When the people ask, he was to tell them that the Lord himself will bring those who the sticks represent back together, and make them one again. Remember in verse 11, the Lord said that the dry bones which were brought back to life are the WHOLE house of Israel. Then the Lord says (verse 22) that he will make them one Israel with one King (*Messiah Yeshua*) and never will there be two nations and never a division of two kingdoms.

WHERE ARE THESE PEOPLE OF THE TWO STICKS TODAY?

We know that the Jews who have been captive a couple of times and then scattered by Rome, held the Oracles of God and preserved them. Today they are a people still scattered but have return back to the home land, Israel their country. Many of the Northern House of Israel are believed to be in England as

the genetic offspring of the people of Manasseh. They are in other parts of Europe and they have found sanctuary in America, believed to be the genetic offspring of Manasseh's younger brother Ephraim. In either case we cannot be certain unless we trace back the DNA, if we could do so.

What are the religions of these two people? Well the Judah part of Israel's religion is called Judaism; their religious texts are in the Tanakh, the Hebrew Old Testament. The Torah is the central focal point of canon of scripture. The Torah is also known to Christians as the Pentateuch. "The **Pentateuch** (Πεντάτευχος) The name is derived from two Greek words: pente, meaning "five" . The **Mishnah** or **Mishna** (משנה, "repetition", from the verb *shana* שנה, or "to study and review") is a major work of [Rabbinic Judaism](#), and the first major redaction into written form of Jewish oral traditions, called the [Oral Torah](#). It was debated between 70-200 [CE](#) by the group of rabbinic sages known as the [Tannaim](#)^[1]) The **Talmud** ([Hebrew](#): תלמוד) is a record of [rabbinic](#) discussions pertaining to [Jewish law](#), [ethics](#), customs, and history. It is a central text of [Rabbinic Judaism](#), second only to the [Hebrew Bible](#) in importance. "(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torah>.

Many know that the word Torah means "law" and often called by Gentiles as The Book of Law. Actually the true and best idea for the Torah is "[teaching](#)," "[instruction](#)," "[scribe](#)", or "[law](#)" in [Hebrew](#).,

Since Ephraim and Manasseh's genetic offspring are here today, what is their religion? Well the greatest religion of the Gentiles is one form or another of Christianity. The gentiles have preserved the gospels on down through the ages since first given by Yeshua (Jesus) and his Apostles. This religion dominates throughout much of Europe and North America. So we have two great peoples and two great religions, or are they really one? What is the commonality between the Jews and the Christians?

- Same Patriarch – Abraham
- Same God of the fathers, Abraham Isaac and Jacob (later referred to as Israel.)
- Same Old Covenant and text of. Jews – Tanakh and Christians, the Old Testament.
- The same rule of God, the Ten Commandments and Levitical Law.
- Yeshua, (Jesus). Although the Talmud proclaims Yeshua to be a heretic, they admit that he was one of their sons. He was a Rabbi that taught in the temple and had a following. According to the authors of the New Testament (*berit hadashah*) many of who were Yeshua's first-hand disciples, pointed out the difference in Yehusa from the other Rabbi's is that he preached the Love of God, his father, and performed miracles. Although after reading of his many miracles, it seems that he would have rather not surrender to miracles but that the people would listen to his sermons and merely accept but faith. The big challenge was to accept him as Messiah. It was a difficult back that day as is now.

LOVE IS TRULY THE KEY

We've heard so many songs and poems written on this subject of love. For the most part they are about boy meets girl or boy does what he can to get the girls affection, and vice-versa. One of the greatest music writers of our time was the Beatles who seem to capture the feeling of the above. In matter of fact for 20 years plus they seemed to have cornered the market on the subject. McCartney always kept his focus on this boy meets girls puppy love, if you will; which Lennon referred to as "Silly Little Love Songs".

Harrison on the other hand became very religious and philosophical in his songs as they demonstrated his spiritual struggle and since his "Taxman" days hardly ever reflect his thoughts in the political realm as did John Lennon. Lennon who wrote the song All You Need Is Love (He proclaimed that whoever sang the lead on a Lennon-McCartney song actually wrote it.) Not to slight John in the "puppy love" area, as he was also big on Girl meets Boy love, but matured more for love of country and peace for mankind, although he never projected a life of relationship with God. He gave us his own ideas on Heaven and Brotherhood of Man but without a Fatherhood of God. Much like the Buddhists believe in the self (god) and relationship one to another.

Therefore, it is true that there are several viewpoints on this thing we call love and the key to understanding the Bible is to understand the Greek words that mean Love, Agape and Phileo.

Agape: Many define this word a little differently the sum of their definitions comes out to be to love without condition. Yeshua uses this word in [Matthew 22:37-41](#). However he uses the same word for both loving God and our neighbor. It's no wonder he sums this up with his new commandment (John 13:34) That we love one another as he loved us. He gave his life for us and as he states in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." To not put ourselves first in every situation is to be like him.

Phileo: 368. phileo, fil-eh'-o; from G5384; to be a friend to (fond of [an individual or an object]), i.e. have affection for (denoting personal attachment, as a matter of sentiment or feeling; while G25 is wider, embracing espec. the judgment and the deliberate assent of the will as a matter of principle, duty and propriety:

We interpret this as a brotherly love, a comradery. This word and *adelphos* (brother) the root of our Philadelphia the famous city in Pennsylvania and the Church during the early years of Christianity (Christ refers to in Revelation 1:11).

*There are three other Greek words for Love: **Eros**, passionate love, with sensual desire and longing; **Storge**, "affection" in modern Greek; it is natural affection, like that felt by parents for offspring; and **Thelema**, desire" also in modern Greek; it is the desire to do something, to be occupied, to be in prominence.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love

Looking back to the famous Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-18 (notice the trumpet in 18, translated as Shofar) we see that these commandments are guidelines of those things that suppress love, our relationship with each other and God.

CHRISTIANITY AND ISRAEL

However, did Yeshua come to begin a new religion? According to the his statement in Matthew 5:17 gives us his statement, he came not to destroy (do away) with the law, (teaching – Torah) but to fulfill Torah therefore by his own words he did not come to start a new religion but to complete that which was given to Abraham, down through Israel, Moses and the prophets.

(To Be Continued)