

# DRY BONES AND THE TWO STICKS

## INCLUSION AND NOT REPLACEMENT

For centuries Christians have taught a replacement theory of the chosen people of God believing that Christendom is the replacement the chosen people of God instead of the Children of Israel or commonly known to many as the Jews. The fact that the Jews refused to believe that Yeshua/Jesus was the Messiah, and certainly not the Son of God, an assumption was made that God was finished with his people and started a new religion of God's people with Jesus Christ.

Judaism is a set of beliefs and practices originating in the Hebrew Bible, also known as the [Tanakh](#), and explored in later texts such as the [Talmud](#). Jews consider Judaism to be the expression of the covenantal relationship [God](#) developed with the [Children of Israel](#)—originally a group of [around a dozen tribes](#) claiming descent from the Biblical [patriarch Jacob](#)—and later, the [Jewish people](#) (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judaism>)

But what of the rest of this House of Israel, are they really eradicated from the mind of God to never be seen or known again? Well to begin with let's review where God first talks about this division then inclusion and reunion of the Whole House of Israel.

Beginning with chapter one of the Book of Ezekiel, God visits the prophet, then priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; The house of Israel was already divided and in captive. God presents to Ezekiel the state of things and calls him as a prophet to tell his people that he has not forgotten them (nor replaced them.)

In the 37<sup>th</sup> chapter God tells Ezekiel 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."

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 younger 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. Joseph was the favorite of Jacob and made him the coat of many colors, 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 skins of the nations.

Note in the Ezekiel prophecy, the Lord tells the prophet to put the two sticks together. When the people ask, he was told to tell them that the Lord himself will bring the two 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 live 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 pilgrim to the home land, Israel their country. Many Jews are in England which is believed to be the genetic off spring 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.

What are the religions of these two people? Well the Judah part of Israel's religion is called Judaism, their religious text are the Tanakh, the Hebrew Old Testament. The Torah is the central focal point of cannon 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 *shanah* 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](#)<sup>[1]</sup>) 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 of another of Christianity. The gentiles have preserved the gospels don down through the ages since first given by Yeshua (Jesus). 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, 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 Yeshua from 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 task 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 girl's affection, and vice-versa. One of the greatest music writers of our time was English invading group, the Beatles who seem to capture the feeling of love in a universal way. In matter of fact for 20 years plus they cornered the market on the subject. McCartney always kept his focus on this boy meets girl-puppy love, if you will; which Lennon referred to as "Silly Little Love Songs".

George Harrison, on the other hand, became very religious as his songs demonstrated his spiritual struggle; and since his "Taxman" days he hardly ever reflected his thoughts in the political realm as did John Lennon. John Lennon who wrote the song All You Need Is Love (*John proclaimed in an interview that whoever sang the lead on a Lennon-McCartney song actually wrote it.*) Whereas Lennon was big on Girl meets Boy love, it was more love for countries and peace for mankind was his forte. 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.

This key is also conveyed throughout the Holy Bible. Since the word in the English translations is the same "love" and we understand the meaning by the context of the verses surrounding the word's usage, let's focus on the Greek words that mean Love.

**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 (in the Strong's Concordance). 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 comradeship. This word and *adelphos* (brother) is where we get our Philadelphia the famous city in Pennsylvania.

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.

### **What Say Ye of This Merge to Israel?**

Neither house is perfect in any way.

We've seen where Judah has suffered and according to the scriptures because Judah rejects the stone the builders have rejected which has become the capstone. This has become one of the most repeated phrases throughout the Bible and refers to Jesus/Yeshua Christ/HaMashiach. Jesus/Yeshua was rejected by his own people, as prophesied by David in (Psalms 118:)

22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

23 This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

Jesus/Yeshua, later refers to the same prophecy in Matthew 21:

42 Jesus saith unto them (the chief priests and the elders), 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?

43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

### **The Capstone, That The Builders Rejected.**

A capstone is the last stone placed into the building. It is also a stone that covers a compartment of documents concerning "who's" and "why"'s of the construction, knowledge of the intent, heart and purpose of the building. According to Webster it is also [the high point: crowning achievement <the capstone of her career>](#). Psalm 118:22, recurs at Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17, Acts 4:11 and 1 Peter 2:7

The Great Pyramid of Giza, stands in the middle of Egypt (dessert outskirts) has 144,000 polished lime stones, without a capstone (Rev 7:3-8;Rev 1,3-5). Isaiah 19:19-20:

19 In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD.

20 And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.

21 And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it.

The Pyramid relates to the Messiah as the stone the builders rejected.

Egypt plays a major role in the Tanakh (Hebrew Old Testament) where the children of Israel (Jacob) are led into Egypt because of Joseph, the youngest of the twelve brothers, who was sold into slavery by his brothers, ends up in Egypt, first as a slave and then as the viceroy to the pharaoh. Gen. 37:28-47:31 (David retells the story in Psalms 105: 15-23). Because God's people - Israel's number began to outnumber the Egyptians, they were hated and made slaves of Egypt. God heard his people's pleas for deliverance and sent Moses (chosen at birth) to take the Israelites out of Egypt, to the desert at Sinai where they dwelt for forty years. After that period Joshua led them to the promise land, the territory from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

The Land of Israel had three Major Kings, Saul, David and Solomon.

Saul was a proud King who reigned over United Israel in 1047 - 1007 BC. He was a proud as mighty King who became disobedient to the Lord when God began to defrock him, removed his anointing (Ruach: God's Spirit) from the King, and at the same time preparing the young shepherd boy to take the Throne. Saul became rebellious not only to the Lord but also he set out to destroy the future King of Israel, until one day he committed suicide.

David, the shepherd boy, also known as the Righteous King and who the Crown of was later named, established the righteousness throughout the land. David, from the Tribe of Judah preserved the oracles of the Lord and the Lord makes a covenant that he will make David's Throne forever (2 Samuel 7), the same throne to be occupied the Messiah on his return.

David lived c.1037 - 970 BC, his reign over Judah c.1007 - 1000 BC, and his reign over the United Kingdom of Israel c.1000 - 970 BC.

Solomon, David's son and heir to the throne built during his reign, the Temple in dimensions given to Moses for the temporary Tabernacle (tent of God) in the wilderness in the center of the Israelite camp.

When Solomon died, a civil war broke out among the tribes of Israel. The ten tribes to the north of Jerusalem broke away from this city and formed a new government and a new religion (began following pagan ways). To define their own religious worship in opposition to the Jews, the ten tribes of Israel set up renegade temples in Bethel and Dan.

The Jews and the tribe of Benjamin in the south remained loyal to Solomon's son -- loyal to the House of David. The metaphor, of course, points again to Jesus who is foreseen in scripture as royalty and heir to the throne of David. (See Is.9:6-7). The division between the two houses of Israel, then, foreshadowed the immense spiritual schism that was created when the Jews and the newly formed Christians divided the House of Israel in Christ. Here were two houses, both of Israel, and both thoroughly divided with respect to loyalty to the Davidic God of Israel. The roles, however are juxtaposed.

Capped by the rebellion, the sins of the Israelites brought them to the brink of the exile that Moses had foreseen. At that point, God sent His prophets to plead with them to change their ways. Some, like Isaiah and Micah were Jews, but others, such as Elijah, Elisha, Amos, and Hosea came from the tribes of the north. ([http://goodnewspirit.com/israel\\_history.htm](http://goodnewspirit.com/israel_history.htm))

The Northern Kingdoms became known as Ephraim, the youngest son of Joseph, who Jacob passed on the blessing.

“There are numerous references in Biblical writings. In Ezekiel 37:16-17, the prophet is told to write on one staff (quoted here in part) "For Judah..." and on the other (quoted here in part) , "For Joseph..." (the main Lost Tribe). The prophet is then told that these two groups shall be someday reunited.

Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. Ezekiel 37:16-17 KJV

There are also discussions in the [Talmud](#) as to whether the Ten Lost Tribes will eventually be reunited with the Tribe of Judah, that is, with the Jewish people.”

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ten\\_Lost\\_Tribes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ten_Lost_Tribes))

As prophesized by the prophets, although it appeared Ephraim was assimilated with the Gentiles, God’s heart remained for Ephraim

(Jer 31:20 KJV) Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.

(Jer 31:9 KJV) They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

How can a people who appears to be no more be saved by God? Well evidentially YHVH put his stamp into the blood.

(Zec 10:6-12 KJV)

6 And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God, and will hear them.

7 And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.

8 I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased.

9 And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.

10 I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not be found for them.

11 And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away.

12 And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.

(Hosea 14:8 KJV) Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.

The House of Ephraim is on its way to turning back to the God of Israel and lift Yeshua/Jesus up as the head of the Church.

(To Be Continued)