

The following offers a preview of the book, *Ephraim and Judah - Israel Revealed*. It contains introductory information, plus the Table of Contents, the Forward, the Introduction, and the First Chapter. For more information, and to obtain copies of the book, in paper, digital, audio, and video formats, please go to <<http://www.keyofdauidpublishing.com/>>, or, <<http://www.messianicisraelmarketplace.com/>>

Ephraim and Judah

Israel Revealed

by

Batya Ruth Wootten

Foreword by Angus Wootten

Ephraim and Judah - Israel Revealed

This book is a concise version of Who is Israel?
It is designed to be a great handout to help share your faith with
your friends and family.

Like Batya's other solution driven writings, this book is sure to cause a phenomenal stir among Believers. The truth about both houses of by Batya Ruth Wootten Israel is encouraging a reformation in the Body of Messiah. Read this Scripture-based book and find out what is inspiring Believers everywhere!

The ideas and concepts are clearly outlined and formatted for easy reading. Included are numerous maps, charts, and lists that make the concepts come alive.

This book exposes misconceptions about Israel's Twelve Tribes and shows us the truth about all Israel.

You need to read and study this little book because it will:

- Inspire and encourage you, even change your life.
- Help you discover your own Hebraic Heritage.
- Put your feet on the road to Zion.

Read this Scriptural account of Israel and understand:

- Israel, the Church, the Bible.
- The mystery of the "fullness of the Gentiles."
- The "blindness" of Israel.
- The Father's master plan for Israel.

This guidebook will explain why you:

- Feel something is "missing" in your life.
- Have an unexplainable love for Israel and Jewish people.
- Feel an urge to celebrate the feasts of Israel.

This handbook will help you to:

- Move from religion to relationship.
- Unmuddle the muddled doctrines of Christianity.
- Properly intercede for "all Israel."
- Remove the stones from Israel's road home.
- Live the Shema--the heart of New Covenant faith.
- Fulfill the latter-day desires of the Father's heart.

The Biblical truths unveiled in this volume will help:

- Put an end to "Christian" anti-Semitism.
- Heal divisions in the Body of Messiah.
- Cure the plague of "Believer's Boredom,"
- Relieve rootlessness in non-Jews who love Israel.

This book: Leads us back to our First Love.

- Lifts up Messiah Yeshua.
- Gives Him His proper place.
- Shows how He is the epitome of all that is Israel.

The revelation that unfolds on these pages will enrich your relationship with the Holy One of Israel; it will lead Jewish and non-Jewish Believers--Judah and Ephraim--to become the promised "one new man." Read and be blessed.

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Ephraim and Judah Israel Revealed

by Batya Ruth Wootten Foreword by Angus Wootten

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Notes:

To emphasize some Scriptures, italics or an alternate word choice has been used, especially for the names of the Father and Son. Also, with all verses, except the Amplified Bible (TAB), brackets [] indicate text added by the author. For complete Bibliography Information, please consult the Author's book, Who Is Israel?

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made this book possible.

O house
of Ephraim Israel
and house of Judah...
the Father called your name,
a green olive tree, beautiful in fruit
and form. But because of your sins, He
pronounced evil against you. Yet take heart,
O house of Israel, take heart O house of Judah, for
the Father has promised: "It will come about that after
I have uprooted and scattered them, after some have be-
come like degenerate, foreign vines, then My compass-
ions will again be kindled and I will regather them. I
will bring them back, each one to his own inheritance,
each one to his own land. Yes, this is My promise to
them. For these two olive branches are My two
chosen witnesses. And I will grant authority to
them, for they are the two sons of fresh oil
who are standing by the LORD
of all the earth.

(Jeremiah

2:18-21;

11:10,16

-17; 12:15;

Hosea 1-2;

Zechariah 4:11-14;

Revelation 11:3-4.)

The Prophetic Call

The following Scriptures appear on the cover of this book. We list them here along with the reference:

O "House of Israel and House of Judah...YHVH called your name, 'A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form'" (Jeremiah 11:10,16). And YHVH says, "Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick...in My hand" (Ezekiel 37:19). "In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together...to the land I gave their fathers as an inheritance" (Jeremiah 3:18). "It will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing. Do not fear; let your hands be strong" (Zechariah 8:13). "Then the jealousy of Ephraim will depart, and those who harass Judah will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, and Judah will not harass Ephraim. They will swoop down on the slopes of the Philistines on the west; and YHVH will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; and He will wave His hand over the River with His scorching wind; and He will strike it into seven streams and make men walk over dry-shod" (Isaiah 11:13-15). "'In those days and at that time,' declares YHVH, 'the sons of Israel will come, both they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and it will be YHVH their God they will seek. They will ask for the way to Zion, turning their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to YHVH in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten'" (Jeremiah 50:4-5). "'Behold, days are coming,' declares YHVH, 'when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them... But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days...I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, "Know YHVH," for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them...for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more" (Jeremiah 31:31-34). "There-fore through this Jacob's iniquity will be forgiven; and this will be the full price of the pardoning of his sin: when he makes all the altar stones like pulverized chalk stones; when Asherim and incense altars will not stand" (Isaiah 27:9). "Return to the stronghold, O prisoners who have the hope; this very day I am declaring that I will restore double to you. For I will bend Judah as My bow, I will fill the bow with Ephraim....and I will make you like a warrior's sword. Then YHVH will appear over them, and His arrow will go forth like lightning; and the Lord YHVH will blow the trumpet, and will march in the storm winds of the south" (Zechariah 9:12-14).

Shema Israel.

Hear and obey the call of the Holy One of Israel.

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Foreword

It is my observation that the GOD of Israel often uses men and women working together to keep His plan for Israel on course. Sometimes He especially chooses to use the female team member. For example, He used Sarah to insure that the promise went to Isaac rather than to Ishmael (the one Abraham would have chosen), and He used Rebekah to thwart Isaac's plan to pass the promise to Esau rather than to Jacob (whom YHVH had chosen) (Genesis 21:9-12; 27:4-10).

I am thankful that the Father has used my wife, Batya, and her faithfulness to help keep our team on course. Because of her tenacity, we can now understand "Israel," and can therefore be used by the Holy One to help accomplish His desire, which is to have a people for His own possession.

In the early Seventies we became deeply involved in the new Messianic Jewish Movement, where we faced two initial challenges. First, we needed to provide a way for Jewish Believers to come to know Y'shua as their Messiah without having to renounce their Jewish heritage. Second, we needed to present Israel's Messiah to the Church from a Jewish perspective, and thus encourage an appreciation for the eternal principles of Torah (the "Law") and for the truths revealed in the Feasts of Israel.

From the beginning, the movement began to attract "Gentiles." In fact, more non-Jews were flocking to the standard being raised by Messianic Judaism than were Jewish people. These non-Jews had two motivations: They wanted to support their Jewish brothers, and to trade errant traditions for the Father's Torah and His Feasts. They too were being drawn to this reemerging Israel.

We strongly supported the fledgling efforts of our Jewish brothers. Among other things, we established a real first: The House of David Messianic Materials Catalogue.

The goal of this cutting-edge publication was to develop and distribute materials that would aid Believers in understanding both their "roots" and their Jewish brethren.

However, the more we read and observed, the more we became concerned over the place of those regarded as "non-Jews" in the movement. At the time, Messianic Jewish heritage was based on one having "visible" Jewish parentage when they became involved in the movement (or they could simply be married to some-one who met the requirement). These "physical Jews" who accepted Messiah were then assumed to be "spiritual Jews" as well. On the other hand, "Gentiles" who joined the movement were considered to be only "spiritual" heirs, and there was no way for them to attain the Jewish "twice chosen" status.

This standard resulted in two classes of citizenship—which soon caused problems. Many non-Jews were made to feel like second-class citizens. Seeking resolution, I appealed to the leadership to establish a “conversion procedure” that would make everyone equal, both “physically” and “spiritually.”

Not only was this proposal unacceptable to most of them, after reflecting on the idea, it became completely unacceptable to my wife. She reasoned that, while all must repent, if one also had to “be converted to be a first-class citizen,” then one must have been born wrong in the first place. She would often say, “A mortal man’s declaration will not change the facts of who I am. What I need to know is, Who am I to the Father?”

The teachings being put forth about the roles of “Israel and the Church” did not seem to be adding up to what we saw in Holy Writ. This fact, plus the challenge of finding Scriptural books about Israel for our Catalogue, led Batya to cry out to the Father with the question, “Who is Israel?”

This concise book offers the essence of the Father’s answer to that all-important question. Surely the Holy Spirit will use it, along with its parent book, *Who Is Israel?* to help guide a believing Israel back onto the road of “Thy Kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven.” It will help get us back on course, thus preparing the way for Messiah’s return and restoration of the Kingdom to Israel.

This brief overview provides answers to the “Israel” question. It shows how Israel was divided into two houses, the house of Ephraim (Israel) and the house of Judah. It emphasizes the fact that our Father is now putting them back together. Additionally, it addresses two other life-changing questions: Where is Israel now? What is Israel’s destiny?

On a profoundly personal level, this solution driven book will help you answer the following questions: Who are you to the Father? Why do you feel the way you do about Israel. And what is your individual destiny?

I believe my wife was called to write the first of our books because in our team she is the “nit-picker” (you need one of those for research purposes). She is never willing to settle for anything less than the absolute truth, regardless of consequences. Furthermore, between the two of us, she is more articulate. But her books speak for both of us. Every word. However, I feel there is another reason that she especially has been called to write on this subject.

I think YHVH wanted this latter-day truth to be presented first by the feminine side of His creation, because in order to reunite a divided Israel, we must all learn to nurture one another. We must learn to be patient, to love and encourage each other. In our restoration, we will first have to exhibit an encouraging, mother’s type love to those who are “different.”

In the Father’s grand design, the mothers most often settle squabbles between the children. Very often Ephraim (Israel) and Judah, Christians and Jews, behave like battling, jealous children, and before their age-old disputes can truly be settled, both must be corrected fairly and equitably (Deuteronomy 25:13-16; Proverbs 20:10).

As reunited Israel emerges from their womb of dispersion, they will be like sons who must first learn to heed their “mother’s instructions” (Proverbs 1:8; 6:20). For Scripture commands us not to “forsake the torah of our mother.”^A Our Mother’s torah, or instructions, most often deal with our heart attitudes.

Children’s training primarily begins with their mothers. Only when a son has matured and developed a right heart attitude is he turned over to his father, who then trains him to become “bar mitzvah” (a son of the commandments).

A right heart attitude is necessary to live the Father’s Torah. Since women are frequently

^A See the *House of David Herald*, Volume Eleven Book Ten, *Mama’s Torah*.

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more intuitive than men, they are generally much better at reaching into the heart of a matter than is fact-oriented man.

To put Israel back together again, we need to become like little children and deal with the issues of our hearts. Moreover, it seems our Father has often used women to get the men moving, and this generation of men needs to have a fire of faithfulness lit under them. There are too many who would rather sit and look for signs than to move out and create wonders.

In the spirit of Deborah of old, Batya issues a call to those who are sitting and waiting like Barak. Hers is an encouraging call to “Arise, O sons of Israel! Believe that the Father has given your enemies into your hands!” (Judges 4-5). Her call is a declaration, for the day is upon us when the Holy One of Israel is making the “sticks” of Ephraim and Judah one in His hand (Ezekiel 37:15-28)! Today is the day when YHVH Tsavaot, the LORD of Hosts, is calling forth the overcoming armies of Israel!

It has been Sovereignly decreed that Ephraim and Judah ultimately will know victory over their enemies. They will help prepare the way for the return of our King and help establish His Kingdom here on earth (Isaiah 11:11-16). We want to partake of that victory.

Finally, I want to say that the God-given insight found in our books has brought radical change to my life. It has truly changed me. Further, I have seen this same understanding dramatically change the lives of tens of thousands. And I know it can change you! So I welcome you to the ranks of the radically changed— to the multitude of forerunners being prepared for the day when the kingdoms of this world will become the restored Kingdom of Israel!

Angus Wootten
Director
Messianic Israel Alliance
Saint Cloud, Florida

Introduction

Who is Israel? Our answer to this question is vitally important to each of us; for it determines how we will interpret Scripture and who we think are the Father's "chosen" people, it also defines our view of His end-time plan for His people.

Who are our Heavenly Father's "chosen" people, the "Christians" or the "Jews"? Could the Scriptural answer include both people groups? (Deuteronomy 7:6; 1 Peter 1:1; 2:9).

To answer this critical question we must address the idea of "Physical Israel," for, whether realized or not, a vague concept of physical descent is the usual standard applied when people seek to define whom they think are the people "of Israel." Even those who claim to be "Spiritual Israel" assume they are not of "Physical Israel," and often proclaim that being part of physical Israel is unimportant.

Why is it important for Believers^B in the Messiah of Israel (Y'shua^C) to know whether they are part of Israel?

The Father says, "Israel is My son, My firstborn" (Exodus 4:22). Conversely, His "firstborn" is "Israel." Israel is a birthright title that is of great importance to the Father. Remember what He said of Esau, who disdained his birthright?

"I have loved Jacob; but I have hated Esau...men will call [Esau]...the people toward whom YHVH^D is indignant forever" (Malachi 1:2-4).^E New Covenant Believers are sovereignly warned, "See that no one is ...godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son." Because, "afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind [no place for repentance], though he sought for it with tears" (Hebrews 12:15-17, NIV).

It is crucial that we understand Israel, yet first we must delineate a few salient points:

Israel: Divided By The Almighty

Abraham fathered Isaac, who fathered Jacob (later named Israel), who fathered twelve sons known as the twelve tribes of Israel. After King Solomon's death (son of King David), Israel's tribes were divided into two houses or kingdoms: Ephraim (Israel) and Judah. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, and he wanted to force those of the Northern Kingdom (Ephraim/Israel) to come under his rule. However, YHVH warned him, "You shall not go up or fight against your relatives...for this thing is from Me" (2 Chronicles 11:4).

^B We use *Believer* to describe those purchased by Messiah's blood rather than *Christian* because the latter is misused (Mat 7:23; 1 Cor 6:20; 1 Pet 1:17-19).

^C *Y'shua* (ישוע) is His Hebrew/Aramaic name, it means "Salvation" (Mat 1:21).

^D YHVH: Name of the one true God, comprised of four Hebrew letters, יהוה.

^E Gen 25:28-34; Obad 1:6-9,17-18; Jer 49:10; Rom 9:13.

Israel: Not Yet Reunited

Some people teach that the two houses of Israel have already been reunited. However, this cannot be true because the hallmarks of a fully restored Israel are sinlessness, living safely in the Land, and being under the rule of the King of Kings. It is evident that these conditions have not been met; therefore, Israel's two houses could not possibly be fully reunited at this time. As Believers, we realize that Israel's unity is presently imputed in Messiah Y'shua, but Israel has not yet fully implemented that unity (Ezekiel 37:22-26; Isaiah 27:9; Zechariah 8:3,7-8,13; Ephesians 2).

The "Witness People"—Divided Into "Two"

Why did the Father allow division to come to Israel?

"You are My witnesses," He says of Israel's children (Isaiah 43:10). Israelite sheep are always being a "witness," though that witness may be positive or negative, for "the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" (KJV).

Israel is called to witness to the world that YHVH alone is "GOD." She is to proclaim that YHVH is the "I AM," that before Him there was no GOD formed, and that there will be none after Him, and that there is no Savior besides Him (Isaiah 43:8-13; 44:8; Luke 2:11).

But that presents a problem, for, YHVH cannot break His own Law. Moreover, He is the ultimate Author of Israel's Covenants, Old and New. In His Inspired Books He established a law that demands that all things be confirmed by two or more witnesses...

Two Houses—Two Witnesses

In Israel two or more must bear witness before a matter can be established, confirmed, or believed. Messiah Y'shua and Paul the apostle upheld this principle. Thus, according to both the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, a matter must first be confirmed by "two or more witnesses." Since YHVH will always abide by His own Torah (or "Law"), He too must have two witnesses to confirm and establish His truth—Genesis to Revelation. ^F

Historically, for the past nineteen hundred years, YHVH has had two witnesses: Ephraim and Judah, Christians and Jews.

Though the testimonies of each have thus far been incomplete, they are nevertheless the only two people groups on earth who have been giving "testimony" about the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Both Houses: Chosen To Be Tested

Scripture refers to the two houses of Ephraim and Judah as "The two families that YHVH

^F See Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; John 8:17; 2 Corinthians 13:1. Note: This law also reveals the *plurality* of the God of Israel. For He declared that, "No person shall be put to death on the testimony of *one* witness" (Num 35:30; Deu 19:15). In Israel, execution demands, a *plurality* of witnesses. And in these verses, *one* is translated from *echad*, which can mean a numeral, united, first, alike, alone, a man, only, other, together, same, single, each (see *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, Thomas Nelson, 1984 [also Parson's Technology QuickVerse Bible Software Program, 1996-99, Cedar Rapids], hereafter *Strong's*, # H259; TWOT # 61). *Echad* is used to define our God in the *Shema*, the Deuteronomy 6:4 affirmation of faith: "Hear, O Israel...the LORD is one [*echad*]." *Echad* can mean both *alone*—as in *only*, or it can mean *together*—as in *one/united/same*. In the "human witnesses" verses, "echad" must be taken in its "diversity within unity" meaning. And while true that our God is to be the "*One and Only* GOD" of the Israelites—it also is true that His *echad* claim must be understood in its "plural" form. For, "Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). And in Scripture YHVH is depicted as a "witness" against the people of Israel (Mal 3:5; Lev 20:5; Deu 32:35; Psa 96:13). Therefore, if He is "singular," and has been a "witness" against a man that leads to the death of that man, then, YHVH Himself has broken Scripture. However, if He is to be a Scripturally correct "witness" against man, then He must be understood in the "diversity within unity" sense of *echad*. The Word does tell us that He is "plural" with Messiah Y'shua—Who ultimately will be both Judge and Jury (John 5:22-24,30-34: 12:48). Y'shua is the Living Word—His Word will one day be used to judge all mankind (John 1:1; Heb 4:12). (See the *House of David Herald*, Vol. 8 Book 9, *One Witness?*, by Batya Wootten and Judith Dennis.)

chose.” And He swore that He will one day “restore their fortunes and...have mercy on them” (Jeremiah 33:23-26).

These “two nations” (Ezekiel 35:10; 37:22) also are called “both the houses of Israel” (Isaiah 8:14), and during their sojourn on earth both are called to a “test.” We see this in that the word *bachar*, or chosen, also is translated tested: “Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction” (Isaiah 48:10).

Israel was chosen to forever be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Because YHVH loved their fathers, He chose, *bachar* (בחר), or appointed, their descendants after them.^g Because they are chosen, Israelites must make a choice:

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse...so choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants.”

Restated, Israel is forever chosen to choose.

Israel also is chosen to be tested (Deuteronomy 30:19; 28). So choose this day whom you will serve O Israel (Joshua 24:15).

Ephraim Israel: Destined To Become A Melo haGoyim

To understand Israel we must realize that whether they are blessed or cursed, Israelites and their children will forever remain biological Israelites. Further, just as every promise made to the Jewish people must be fulfilled, so every promise made to Judah's brother Joseph, and thus to Joseph's son Ephraim, must be fulfilled. Jacob proclaimed that the descendants of Ephraim would become a “melo hagoyim” (מלא הגוים), a “fullness of Gentiles” (Genesis 48:19).

Where is Ephraim today?

Could he possibly be among the non-Jewish Believers? Could the roots of many Believers extend much deeper than previously imagined? Is it possible that at this time the Father is revealing the truth of Ephraim's identity as “part” of the people of Israel?

Certainly that would explain why so many Believers now feel drawn to Israel's feasts and to the eternal truths of Torah. It also explains Jeremiah's prophecy about Ephraim being “instructed,” and about him “coming to know himself.” It well explains Ephraim's present search for his roots (Jeremiah 31:18-19).

As foretold by Isaiah, both houses have stumbled over He Who would be a Sanctuary to them (Y'shua)— although they stumbled in different ways. Judah has stumbled in not seeing the Messiah as the Living Torah, Ephraim has stumbled in that he could not see the truth of his own Israelite roots. This happened because both were partially hardened. Neither could see clearly. But now is the time for the veil to be lifted and for blinded eyes to begin to see. It is time for the “two sticks” of Ephraim and Judah to be made one in the Father's hand (Isaiah 8:13-14; John 2:19-22; Romans 11:25; Ezekiel 37:15-28).

This Restoration Includes “A II”

Israel's full restoration includes all who are called in Messiah. It includes those who were at one time “separate from Messiah, excluded from the common-wealth of Israel, and strangers to the

^g The *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (hereafter *TWOT*) says of *bachar* (chosen), “The root idea is evidently to ‘take a keen look at’...thus... the connotation of ‘testing or examining’ found in Isa 48:10....The word is [primarily] used to express the choosing which has ultimate and eternal significance” (Moody, 1985, # 231, Vol. I, p 100). See Exo 19:4-6; Deu 4:37; 7:6-8; 10:15; 1 Pet 1:1; 2:9-10. *Chose: Strong's # H 977*.

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covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” In Y’shua, those who formerly were far off are brought near by His shed blood. “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household” (Ephesians 2:11-22). This Divine restoration includes the “companions” of both Judah and Ephraim (Ezekiel 37:16).

Israelites, Ephraimites and Judahites alike, are beginning to see truths in Scripture that they never saw before, because their eyes are being opened.^H

This new insight is causing Israel to come forth from her grave of disobedience and dispersion, and to leave behind her tattered shrouds of Roman and Babylonian garb. It is causing her to seek to be clothed only in truth and righteousness. She is returning to the Father’s Inspired Word, Genesis to Revelation, and in her search for truth, Scripture is coming alive with new meaning.

Though people often make it complicated, the truth about the identity of Israel is very simple:

Long ago the Father divided Israel into two houses: Ephraim (Israel) and Judah. As His “two witnesses” they were sent in two different directions to serve two different purposes, to establish His two immutable truths of Law and Grace. And now, in this last day, YHVH would have the two Israel’s come together, that they might fulfill His Divine purpose and begin to confirm His truth in the earth.

That is the simple essence of this book. So as you go through the confirming verses in this condensed overview, please remember the simplicity behind it all:

Two houses—Two directions—Two different purposes —Now it is time to put them back together again.

My prayer is that as you study the Father’s Word concerning Israel, that He will enlighten the eyes of your heart and keep you from every deception and error of man. May you come to know His plan for your life, may He give you the boldness to courageously walk in that great plan. May it be that you hear His voice alone, as He quietly whispers in your ear, “This is the way, walk ye in it” (Ephesians 1:18; Jeremiah 29:11; Isaiah 30:21).

Shalom b’ Y’shua,
Batya

^H Jer 11:10, 16; 2:18,21; Rom 11:25; Isa 8:14; Gen 48:19.

One

Many Israels–One Israel

Where do we look to see Israel in all its glory? Though there are many Christians and Jews who live exemplary lives, to truly see and understand Israel, we must first come to know the most important Israel of all.

Following the Father's call of Jacob, for two thousand years the twelve tribes of Israel appeared to be Jacob's heirs—even though they were divided into two houses. Then in Israel a Son was born. He often called Himself "the Son of Man" (Daniel 7:13; Matthew 12:8; 12:40). The life and death of this Son of Man served to divide Israel once again. It is a conflict that has continued for more than 1900 years. Today two people groups—many adherents of Christianity and virtually all followers of Judaism—lay claim to the coveted title of "Israel." Each group claims to be the true heirs of the patriarchs. Most deny the other group the right to the title. What is the truth? Who is Israel?

First and foremost, Israel is depicted in Messiah Y'shua. He is the epitome of all that Israel is called to be. Nonetheless, the most common responses to the "Israel" question are—

- ☞ Jacob, Whose Name Was Changed to Israel
- ☞ The Sons of Jacob—The Twelve Tribes
- ☞ The Land Given to the Twelve Tribes
- ☞ The Old-Covenant People of the God of Israel
- ☞ The Ten Tribes of the Northern Kingdom
- ☞ The Church
- ☞ The Jewish People
- ☞ The Present Jewish State

However, let us remember that Messiah Y'shua also is named Israel. In Isaiah both the Father and Y'shua speak: "Listen to Me, O islands [the nations].... From the body of My mother He named Me [says Y'shua]. And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword....And He said to Me, 'You are My Servant, Israel, in Whom I will show My glory'.... And now says YHVH who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him...To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You [Y'shua] a light of the nations so that My salvation [Y'shua] may reach to the end of the earth" (Isaiah 49:1-6).

Y'shua fulfills the above prophecy in many ways:

It was said to Mary/Miriam: "She will bear a Son; and...call His name Y'shua, for He will save His people from their sins." YHVH calls Y'shua, "My Servant Whom I have chosen." Y'shua says, "I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth." Also, Y'shua is "the radiance of His [YHVH's] glory and the exact representation of His nature." And He is, "A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of...Israel" (Matthew 1:21; 12:18; Revelation 2:16; Hebrews 1:3; Luke 2:32; 1:3).

Ephraim and Judah Israel Revealed

The Father says, "Israel is My son, My firstborn," and "Out of Egypt I called My son." Matthew says: "So was fulfilled what YHVH said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called My son'" (Exodus 4:22; Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:15).

YHVH says of Y'shua, "I will appoint you...as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners." And, "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light."¹ Y'shua came "to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles [former Ephraimite territories]—The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, to those who were sitting in the...shadow of death, upon them a light dawned" (Isaiah 42:6-7; 9:2; Matthew 4:14-16). Further, Y'shua said, "I am the light of the world." And YHVH gave Him "the throne of His father David," that He might "reign over the house of Jacob forever" in a kingdom without end ² (John 8:12; 9:5; Luke 1:32-33).

YHVH is "summing up all things in Y'shua" (NASB); He is gathering "together in one all things" (KJV); He is bringing "all things in heaven and on earth...under one head, even Christ" (NIV). He is the appointed "heir of all things" (Ephesians 1:10; Hebrews 1:2). This "summa-tion" includes Israel. Y'shua is the Israel who is gathering scattered Jacob. To see Israel summed up in all its Glory, we first must look to her Messiah, Y'shua.

Both Houses Have Misunderstood Y'shua

Blinded Ephraim has misunderstood Y'shua in certain ways. Some think He did away with the "law," because they misunderstand His statement, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17).

Some laws cannot be eliminated. Gravity is an example. It is a law that we have to recognize, because if we break the law of gravity we may die. Similarly, if we break the eternal Instructions of Torah we will suffer consequences. This is not because our Heavenly Father waits eagerly to catch us in transgressions, but because His laws have automatic results. It is the principal of sowing and reaping. For example, if we do not take a Sabbath rest every seventh day, we risk having our bodies break down due to stress. Our Heavenly Father wants us to have a day in which we can take our focus from the things of the world and turn to Him, to His love, and to His provision. Thus we find both earthly and Heavenly rest in Him.

Did Y'shua Do A way With The Law?

Yes and no. Yes, because as our sacrificial lamb, Y'shua was offered once for all, and we no longer "need daily... sacrifices" (Hebrews 7:27; 9:12; 10:10; 1 Peter 3:18; Jude 1:3; 1 Corinthians 5:7). No, because the laws of Torah continue to be wisdom to us. They make us a stronger, healthier, wiser people when we reverence them: "You shall therefore keep every commandment...so that you may be strong and go in and possess the land [and]...prolong your days" (Deuteronomy 11:8-9).

¹ Hosea 8:8; Amos 9:9; Isa 8:14; Rom 11:11,25.

² When Y'shua "made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." He now sits on the throne of His father David and rules over the house of Jacob. His Kingdom is now and yet to come (Exo 19:6; 2 Sam 7:12-16; Luke 1:32-33; 12:32; Dan 7:22; Rev 5:9-10; 20:6; 1 Peter 1:1; 2:5-10; Heb 1:3; 8:1; 3:6; 10:19). He offers a new covenant that is both now and yet to come. Only when we are no longer teaching our neighbor about YHVH (because we all know Him) have we entered into its fullness (Jer 31:31-33; Heb 8:8-12).

Torah–Letter or Love?

Y'shua said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). In this vein of love, He fulfilled the Law. He walked it out in all its glory, for our God is a God of love. His Torah (or instructions) were given to help us succeed. His Torah is the constitution of our Nation. It is the history of our forefathers. In the pages of Torah we find understanding. It outlines a blessed path that keeps us from shame (1 John 4:8; 1 Kings 2:3; Deuteronomy 4:5-6; Psalm 119:1-6).

On the other hand, if we focus on the letter of the law, if we seek eternal salvation through the keeping of these laws, then we shall surely fail. We shall be found wanting, for Israel must focus on the "spirit" of Torah.

We must allow Ruach haKodesh (the Holy Spirit) to write the Father's precious truths on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:10; 10:16).

Torah must first be rooted in nurturing love, like that of a mother. Proverbs instructs us to listen to, and not to forsake the Torah of our mothers (Proverbs 1:8 and 6:20).³ Mothers deal with heart attitudes, and true Torah can only be presented with a right attitude of heart, as Y'shua demonstrated.

The Redeemer

While Ephraim needs to learn to revere the truths of Torah, and to no more regard its precepts as a "strange thing" (Hosea 8:12), Judah needs to see the truth about Y'shua.

All Israel needs to be redeemed, and only a Divine Elohim/God can redeem our souls from sheol and provide eternal redemption (Psalm 49:10,15).

If we compromise Y'shua's identity as Elohim, Israel loses her Redeemer. And Ephraim often gets tripped up in man-made legalisms as he is drawn to return to Torah and to Israel's feasts. Because he is jealous of Judah and his roots (Isaiah 11:13), Ephraim seeks Judah's approval. But Judah has been hardened to the truth of Messiah's Deity, and so resists the very idea of a divine Redeemer.

Redeemed Israel must avoid this pitfall. We must walk in the eternal truths of Torah while holding tightly to the hand of our Divine Redeemer.

There is much work to be done to bring all Israel into her fullness—but in and through Y'shua it can be done and it will be done. To reunite Israel we look to the epitome of Israel. We look to Y'shua for eternal redemption and for portrayal of a Torah-based walk.

When we walk as He walked, the world will in truth see Israel.

³ See the *House of David Herald*, Volume Eleven Book Ten, *Mama's Torah*.

Ephraim and Judah Israel Revealed

The foregoing has provided a preview of the book, *Ephraim and Judah - Israel Revealed*. It contains introductory information, plus the Table of Contents, the Forward, the Introduction, and the First Chapter. For more information, and to obtain copies of the book, in paper, digital, audio, and video formats, please go to <http://www.keyofdauidpublishing.com/>, or, <http://www.messianicisraelmarketplace.com>