

A FRESH LOOK AT JUST WHO IS ISRAEL?

Part 22 In The Series On Israel's Restoration

By Rabbi/Brother Moshe Yoseph Koniuchowsky

BEING BORN JEWISH DOES NOT NECESSARILY MAKE ONE ISRAEL

Having certainly identified the two physical houses of Israel being unified in these last days, the time has come to apply to Ephraim/Israel or non-Jewish Israel, the very same standards which Rav Shaul applied to Jewish/Israel in Romans 9:6. In this verse, Rav Shaul declares that not all from the House of Judah are truly the remnant Jews that Yahuwah accepts into His eternal Kingdom. Being born Jewish does not make a Jew a child of the covenants, or an inheritor of eternal life. A Jew must be born anew, and circumcised in heart in order to both see and receive the things of the Ruach HaKodesh (John 3:3, Deut. 10:16). Since Messianic Nazarene Yisrael is determined to use equal weights and measures, we must apply the same objective criteria to the other house of returning Israel that Yahuwah does to Judah.

WHO IS A BIBLICAL JEW?

From the several million Jews identifiable in the time of Yahshua and Rav Shaul, scripture tells us that a physical connection to Jacob by biological lineage is only a partial connection to the Hebrew patriarchs. Unsaved

(unbelievers in Yahshua) Jews must have the faith of Isaac, and Jacob in order to be considered part of the Israel of Yahuwah, being faithful to all of Yahuwah's covenants, especially the Torah and the Brit Chadashah. Romans 9:6 in its proper context continues to reference Jewish/Israel alone, as Yahuwah reiterates that even though Judah can seemingly display the necessary physical connection to the patriarchs, they cannot display full covenant faithfulness, if they do not become children of the Promise or disciples of Messiah Yahshua, the promised Messiah. In order to be fully pleasing to Abba Yahuwah, Jewish/Israel must also exercise faith in the words of the Promised One in order to be children of the Promised One. Romans 9:8 teaches that Messiah Yahshua, Yahuwah's only begotten Son was like Isaac, a child or the Set-Apart Child of Promise promised by the Father before the world began. In order to become true Jews or children of the Promise, Judah must display the same covenant faith towards the words of the Brit Chadashah that the patriarchs of Israel had done in their covenants before. Romans 9:7 shows us that Isaac was promised to Abraham and Sarah, and that the promise of Isaac was received by faith/trust. Therefore Jewish/Israel must add Renewed Covenant faith/trust in order for them to be fully transformed into the Israel of Yahuwah, thriving both in the natural and in the Ruach, not merely in the natural. Romans 9:6 reminds us that the problem was not with the word of Yahuwah or the words of Messiah or with the promise of the coming Promised One. Rather the issue was and still remains that an Israelite of covenant inheritance must be both physical and spiritual Israel, since Israel cannot be divided along

physical and spiritual lines. All those who falsely claim to be the “new spiritual Israel” in the false kirch system are all physical human beings. And all those Jews who claim and trust solely in their fleshy connection to Jacob, in order to be pleasing and acceptable to Father Yahuwah, must become spiritual Israel by allowing Moshiach to circumcise their stony hearts with His Spirit. Israel then is a nation composed of those who are both physical and spiritual Israel at the same time in order to be like Isaac, and like Jacob, who were Ruach filled physical Hebrews. The word of promise determines if a Jew is a child of the covenant, since the word of promise in a messianic context is Messiah Yahshua, His teachings, and His Renewed Covenant.

We must also keep in mind that along with this dual requirement, Jews must continue to do what many have done over the years, which is to continue to protect, guard, and honor the Torah of Yahuwah. So for the Jews the issue was and remains neither Torah faithfulness nor their biological connection to the patriarchs alone. Rather their ongoing issue and problem remains one of not entering into Renewed Covenant rest by faith. Until Jewish/Israel willingly and by their own volition, enters the Renewed Covenant made by Moshiach’s shed blood of atonement, they REMAIN OUTSIDE THE COVENANTS OF PROMISE, HAVING NO INHERITANCE IN THE ETERNAL LIFE AS ISRAEL, EVEN THOUGH THEY REMAIN PART OF BIOLOGICAL ISRAEL. The scriptures do not teach Dual Covenant Theology, where Jewish/Israel inherits the *olam habah* (world to come) by Torah keeping alone without Messiah’s blood of atonement, whereas in contrast it is taught that Ephraim /Israel must

have Messiah's blood of atonement to inherit eternal life. Scripture is clear that both Judah and Ephraim must both enter the eternal covenant sealed by Messiah's blood spilled on Golgotha to have the gift of eternal life (Jeremiah 31:31). There remains just one Renewed Covenant, and just one way to eternal life for both houses of Israel. That way remains Messiah Yahshua's blood atonement (Yochanan/John 14:6). So Judah must bring to Abba Yahuwah these three basic prerequisites for an inheritance in eternity as an Israelite fully acceptable before Abba Yahuwah. They must bring a biological connection to Jacob, a Torah honoring mindset, and a new birth.

WHO IS A BIBLICAL EPHRAIMITE?

Ephraim/Israel is in the exact same boat. The word reminds us in many locations that Yahuwah hates unjust weights and measures and commands all Messianic Nazarene Yisraelites everywhere to use ONLY a just balance, that tips the same way (Mishle/Proverbs 20:10) for all parties. If Rav Shaul makes the case that Jewish/Israel must appear before Yahuwah having been grounded in these three basic criteria to be recognized BY YAHUWAH as Renewed Covenant Israel, then Ephraim/Israel or non-Jewish Israel must also appear before the throne of grace in like manner. Through the two house teachings of this author and others, many thousands are now fully persuaded of their Ephraimite Hebraic heritage, having that persuasion confirmed and sealed by personal revelation from Yahuwah, that they too are PHYSICAL ISRAELITES from the returning House of Ephraim/Israel. Many thousands over the past 5 years

have become more fully convinced than ever that Messiah's blood has done more than just forgiven them personally but has actually restored them through an identification process back to their Jewish brothers, as the two sticks abide in His presence together as *echad*, even as the two sticks/poles abode together in the Speaking Place (Holy of Holies) of Shlomo's/Solomon's Temple (1 Melachim/Kings 8:6-8). Having that understanding, many Ephraimites no longer see themselves as little orphan Annies or spiritual adopted lucky to be saved gentiles. Many now see themselves clearly as the other PHYSICAL House of Israel, that has been identified and marked through the new birth, and the resulting circumcised heart. So what was for so long, (2,000 years) a stumbling block to non-Jewish believers in Yahshua (being foolishly convinced that non-Jewish believers have no physical connection to Jacob) is no longer the huge stumbling block it once was. And many of these same Ephraimites are obviously regenerated in heart, as is manifest by their unashamed love for Yahshua (Romans 1:16). But as Meat Loaf the 70's rock band used to sing "Two Out Of Three Ain't Bad". But... it ain't that fully good either!

You may well be asking, 'well what do you mean'? What is yet lacking among most non-Jewish believers who have come to receive their physical inheritance as the other house of Israel? If non-Jewish/Israel has received both the new birth, as well as the revelation of their own ancient physical connection to Jacob, the question then begs to be asked. Are these same quickened Ephraimites then part of the ISRAEL OF YAHUWAH according to the criteria set forth by Yahuwah Himself in Romans 9? If we

are honest and consistent based on the criteria of Romans 9 the answer is a resounding NO! How can that be? If Ephraimites admit to having a physical inheritance in Israel, and have received that truth by revelation, and also love Yahuwah's only begotten Son, what is yet missing that would fulfill the necessary criteria to be identified as Israel outlined by Yahuwah in Romans 9? **OF COURSE!.....** Torah obedience and full joyful submission to His eternal commands.

THE CHURCH IS NOT EPHRAIM!

As national Israel at long last having begun to be fully restored, if we are truly serious about this nation's prophetic future, we must all be honest with ourselves, as we seek our own place in Israel, as a restored people returning from the ways of the nations (Jer. 10:1-5, Matt. 10:5). In the same way that traditional Judah lacks Messiah, Ephraim lacks Torah, and the marks of Torah, which include Shabbat keeping or better said Shabbat guarding, and Wayiqra/Lev. 23 Feast guarding. Ephraim/Israel based on the clear principles of Romans 9 cannot lay claim or legitimately reclaim their inheritance in and among Israel unless and until they are found to be **GUARDING THE SHABBAT, GUARDING THE FEASTS KEEPING KOSHER, AND RELEARNING AND USING THE FATHER'S TRUE NAME OF YAHUWAH** and other basic *mitzvoth* as outlined in Acts 15 at the Yerushalayim Council. Even that early council determined that to be a true *returning* (*epiphestro*; Acts 15:19) Israelite, a non-Jewish believer **MUST** keep the dietary rules of kashrut, (clean foods; Wayiqra/Lev. 11) as well as keep away or shall we say keep far away from all forms of paganism,

and idolatry found in false religious practices, as well as in practical pagan practices found in food slaughtering and consumption habits. Now we come to the true litmus taste applied to Ephraim/Israel, even as we have previously applied the same test to remnant Jewish/Israel! Can an Ephraimite having been quickened by Yahuwah's Ruach as to his or her need for salvation, and his or her Israelite heritage, continue to blatantly disobey the council of Acts 15, along with the subsequent call to study and live out Torah in their native cities (Acts 15:21)? THE ANSWER IS NO! That council calls Ephraim to take heed to most basic forms of separation and set apartness found in Torah, so as to be considered part of the true Israel of Yahuwah. Can an Ephraimite who understands that he or she is a born again PHYSICAL ISRAELITE, remain in the kirch system, where those who would attempt to guard the Shabbat, and the Feasts, and wear fringes are still considered to be poor misled or misguided legalists living 'back under the law'? The answer according to the criteria outlined by Abba Yahuwah in Romans 9 is a resounding NO! AN EPHRAIMITE WHO TRULY IS CONVINCED THAT THEY ARE A PHYSICAL ISRAELITE FROM THE TEN TRIBES OF EPHRAIM/ISRAEL, WHO CONTINUES TO CHOOSE SUNDAY OVER SHABBAT, CHRISTMAS OVER TABERNACLES, EASTER OVER UNLEAVENED BREAD ETC.ETC., IS NO MORE AN ISRAELITE THAN HARE KRISHNA IS ABRAHAM LINCOLN OR BABE RUTH IS BUGS BUNNY!

LONG OVERDUE BALANCE IS NEEDED

We now bring this corrective measure to bring new

balance to the extreme teachings of years gone by, where many have incorrectly taught that the “CHURCH IS EPHRAIM”, and thus any exposure of the church’s ongoing pagan practices, is somehow perceived as a mean-spirited character assassination against the people of Ephraim/Israel. This understanding is alarmist, fallacious, fear based, and most dangerous as a hindrance in our national reunification, for it allows Ephraimites to experiment with truth in a transition period such as encouraging them to simply and conveniently transfer their Christmas lights from their homes onto their sukkot (booths) at Tabernacles, (rather than simply throwing them out) as one well respected Messianic Nazarene Yisrael publication recently suggested. Rather than being admonished to burn the unclean thing, they are now encouraged to decorate their sukkah with left over Christmas lights, as if somehow when one comes to two house truth, one can magically turn the unclean into the clean. That simply cannot be accomplished any more than a churchman thinking that by saying grace over ham, that somehow his word-faith formula can magically turn the ham into a permitted, clean lawful and blessed food. Oh the depths of deception in s.a.tan's entangled arsenal!

This dangerous tolerance is not love but continued death to our Ephraimite brothers who in most cases truly have their bags packed ready to leave all forms of popery, (spicy or mild) yet are not being encouraged to do so fully and with great gusto. Scripture reminds us that true Ephraimites will be known not just by their fruit of love, the true manifestation of the Ruach but by a **JOYFUL WILLINGNESS TO COME OUT OF AND DEPART**

FROM ALL PAGAN PRACTICES IN A FULL RETURN TO TORAH (Rev. 18:4).

It is fully erroneous to claim to be an Ephraimite and continue in the practices of the apostate fallen away church system (1st Thessalonians 2:3). The teaching that the church itself is Ephraim, and is automatically the other house of Israel, is as wrong as teaching that all biological Jews are automatically Israel, and automatically pleasing to Yahuwah just because they are Jews. Just two years ago a major Messianic Nazarene Yisraelite denomination was forced to amend their 25 year old statement of faith from a blatant “the church IS Ephraim” declaration, to a more moderate position. According to Romans 9 all Jews are not biblical Jews unless they accept the Promised One, the Messiah, and learn to add saving faith/trust to their calling. Ephraim also is not Ephraim, (even if they are biologically physical Ephraim) unless they display the fruit of **GUARDING BOTH THE LIGHTER (smaller *mitzvoth*) AS WELL AS THE WEIGHTIER MATTERS (love, justice, mercy) OF TORAH. To erroneously teach that the church is automatically or even solely Ephraim is equally as dangerous to teaching that the traditional synagogue is automatically Judah, even if those in the traditional synagogue hate Yahuwah’s Son, and follow the traditional rabbis more closely than the Torah of Messiah. Yahshua said: “But now they have both seen **AND HAVE HATED BOTH ME AND MY FATHER (Yochanan/John 15:24B).**” **SO JEWS WHO HATE THE SON OF YAHUWAH, HATE THE FATHER ALSO, DESPITE CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY. AND EPHRAIMITES WHO****

STILL REFUSE TO LEAVE THE KIRCH AND CONTINUE TO LOOK AT TORAH AS LEGALISM RATHER THAN AS LOVING INSTRUCTIONS DESIGNED TO SAFEGUARD ANY SLIPPAGE AWAY FROM THE FAITH, ARE NOT ISRAELITES DESPITE THEIR OWN CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY!

LIKE IT OR NOT TORAH IS ABBAH'S ISRAELITE LITMUS TEST

So while many may not like using the Torah or obedience to the Torah as some sort of litmus test for determining Israelite pedigree, nevertheless Yahuwah has in fact made it a litmus test way back some 3,700 years when He gave it as the *ketuvah*/marriage certificate to ISRAEL ALONE, and it is high time we straighten out the obvious shortcomings in many two house teachings. If Ephraim cannot show renewed devotion to her ancient vow, (Torah) and cannot produce the proof of being the bride called Israel, then they are not Israel. If staying in grandma's church pew, remains more important to them than a renewed faithfulness to their renewed certificate of marriage (Torah) as Israel, then they have failed the litmus test!

THE ORGANIZED CHURCH NEVER HAS BEEN, AND IS NOT NOW EPHRAIM, (the extremist view that the "church is Ephraim" is synonymous to the "church is the new and acceptable Israel" is in fact Replacement Theology, and actually turns off many otherwise open Messianic Jews to two house truth) any more than the synagogue system is Judah. The church system, as well as the synagogue system, both does however contain many

multitudes of biological Israelites, who must come out of both in order to validate their special calling! Both the church system and the rabbinical traditional Jewish synagogue system must submit to the three criteria presented to us in Romans chapter 9. PHYSICAL CONNECTION TO JACOB, PLUS FAITH/TRUST IN MESSIAH, PLUS THE TEACHING AND LIVING OF TORAH QUALIFIES ONE AS AN ISRAELITE. Let us remember that there are no known Israelite institutions. Rather Israelites are a people found in literally hundreds of institutions, places and nations. Are there Ephraimites in mosques? Yes there are. Yet we would never think of teaching that the “mosque is Ephraim”. Are there Ephraimites in Japan? Yes of course. But Japan is not Ephraim. Are there Ephraimites in Free Masonry? Yes there are. But the Lodge is not Ephraim. Are there Ephraimites in the Klu Klux Klan? Yes there are. But the KKK is not Ephraim. Are there Jews in America? Yes there are. But America is not the House of Judah, though many Jews can be found in America! Judah like Ephraim has been scattered to the nations. Those leaving the nations meeting the three fold criteria of Romans 9 are in fact redeemed remnant Yisrael.

According to scripture Ephraimites like their Judahite brethren are in every institution, every language, every tribe and every tongue under heaven, and can only be identified as part of the Commonwealth of Israel when they share the things held dear by Judah, (Zekaryah 8:23) and are able to produce their renewed marriage papers. When both Judah and Ephraim have the same three criteria applied, then and only then can individual Israelites be confirmed in their Israelite claims. Today in the secular nation of the State of Israel, most citizens

may have a fleshy connection to Jacob as well as some pockets of Torah faithfulness but most do not have the necessary messianic faith connection to be the Israel of Yahuwah (Gal. 6:16). Therefore of the State of modern Israel it can be said that they are “not all Israel who are Israel”. It can also be said of Ephraim that “not all biological Ephraimites are Israel” either, **EVEN THOUGH MANY MAY HAVE FINALLY BECOME CONVINCED AND QUICKENED REGARDING THEIR OWN PHYSICAL CONNECTION TO THE PATRIARCHS!**

Let's put things in even simpler terms! According to numerous passages like Yeshayahu/Isaiah 58:13 Yahuwah reminds all returning, repentant Israelites that: **“IF....you do not turn back from the Shabbath, and from doing your own pleasure on My set-apart day, and shall call the Shabbat a delight, and shall esteem it nor finding your own pleasure nor speaking your own words.....THEN you shall delight yourself in Yahuwah. And I shall cause you to ride on the heights of the earth AND FEED YOU WITH THE INHERITANCE OF JACOB YOUR FATHER. For the mouth (Yahshua) of Yahuwah has spoken it.”** The key word to both houses here is the condition **if** and the subsequent **then**. When does Ephraim **OFFICIALLY** become Israel? When does Ephraim get fed by Yahuwah Himself **the things of Jacob**? When they understand two-house truth? **NOOOOOO!** When? Then! When? Then!

When and if **THEY GUARD HIS SHABBAT, HIS WAY,** (a mitzvah paramount to starting to honor all of Torah) they **THEN** are sealed as Ephraim. This is what scripture teaches. The church cannot by biblical definition be

Ephraim, since Ephraim MUST COME OUT OF THE CHURCH SYSTEM leaving popery behind, and start guarding the eternal ordinances that the so called church has sworn no longer applies, and no longer exists in this so-called new economy of Yahuwah. Did not Yahshua teach us the same principle, as did His Father Yahuwah? He reminded us in Mattityahu/Matthew declaring, “by their fruits you SHALL KNOW THEM [and yourself]” Matt. 7:20. Yahshua HaMoshiach goes on to elaborate in Matt. 7 verses 21-23 that many who call him Lord or who are part of the Jesus (Hey Soos) is Lord crowd, will not enter the Kingdom, and cannot be Israel (for all of true regenerated Israel will enter the Kingdom). Any Israelite that calls him Lord BUT BOASTS IN LAWLESSNESS AS A LIFESTYLE, WILL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM, EVEN AS OUR PEOPLE WHO DIED IN THE WILDERNESS DID NOT ENTER THE LAND OF CANNAN! THE DISPENSATIONALIST PREACHER, (DISPENSER OF “INCONVIENIENT” PARTS OF TORAH) WISHING AWAY PARTS OF THE ETERNAL TORAH also will not enter the Eternal Kingdom DUE TO LAWLESSNESS according to our Messiah.

We know from Rev. 21:12 that only Israelites will enter the eternal Kingdom, as there are only 12 entrances named after the 12 tribes, and 12 foundations or floors where 12 tribes of Israelites will dwell (Rev. 21:14). All believers in Messiah who KEEP AND GUARD HIS COMMANDS ARE ISRAELITES regardless if they are from Judah, Ephraim or just joining us through Messiah’s blood (Rev.14: 12, Rev. 22:13-14). There is no gate or dwelling place in the New Jerusalem for Gentiles, Jews or Christians. Yahshua cannot have made things clearer.

Calling him lord in the church institution that ridicules commandment-keeping believers does not cut it. Unless those who claim to be non-Jewish Ephraimites **RENOUNCE LAWLESSNESS BY THEIR DEEDS, (FRUITS OF REPENTANCE) AND BY THEIR ACTIONS by coming completely out of Sunday worship, they cannot be considered scriptural Israelites. They must bid *adios* to all known pagan celebrations, and not add to their mistakes by adding a convenient Sunday service to the Shabbat service so as to foolishly attempt to please all men, as some in Ephraim have done. Those who attempt to please all men cannot please Yahuwah for those who are said to fully please Yahuwah will in some manner offend all men. Yahuwah has no problem plainly stating the truth for all to see. His people will **COME OUT** and manifest their Israelite pedigree by virtue of that divine process.**

LIKE ISAAC

It has now become a necessity in this final hour to FULLY apply equal weights and measures without the mere lip service of the equal weights doctrine, as many from both houses of Israel continue being restored. According to Romans 9 the Jews are not Israel and the church is not Israel. Even biological Israelites are not Israel! Rather Israel is a redeemed, faith filled, PHYSICAL, Messianic, Torah honoring remnant, who when having rediscovered their Hebrew roots, gladly and willingly have come out of the church system, as well as the traditional Jewish synagogue system and the mosque, in order to heed the high calling of the mark of Yahuwah in Messiah Yahshua by forsaking all things that offend

Yahuwah. A more balanced understanding will lead us to discover what Abba Yahuwah already understands, which is that the Synagogue is not Judah and the church is not Ephraim, and that those in the mosque are not the chosen nation or people. Rather Ephraimites are those who willingly come out of the church and Judahites are those who willingly come out of unregenerate synagogues, and other returning Israelites who willingly come out of the mosques, and the nations as all join hands in Renewed Covenant fellowship, as all are bonded into the one Israel of Yahuwah, as all become like Isaac who was both a physical and spiritual Hebrew, and all become like Isaac who obeyed the Torah fully even as Abraham had done before him. Abraham's children, carrying the faith of Abraham, must show evidence that like Abraham, they have fully left Ur of the Chaldees in order to follow Yahuwah's Torah, and in order to instruct other returning Israelites to do likewise in their own personal crossover.