

# What and Where is the Kingdom of God?

## Introduction

The Kingdom of God, is the central theme of the bible and therefore a subject of great importance. It is mentioned, taught and prophesied throughout the Old and New Testament. Christ Himself spent most of His ministry on earth preaching the 'Gospel of the Kingdom of God'. In fact, this phrase occurs 103 times in the gospels alone. Despite this, the Kingdom of God remains one of the most misunderstood and misapplied subjects in the bible. The purpose of his study is to gain a correct understanding of this subject. This is key to fully understanding God's plan and purpose for His own people; the world at large and of course our own individual parts to play in it.

## What is a Kingdom?

A kingdom is a country, nation or empire ruled by a King or Queen. Put simply, it is a community of people living in a particular place with well defined laws and a monarchical form of government. These 4 specific attributes (a people, place, laws and monarchy) are shared by all kingdoms. However, when it comes to the Kingdom of God, these common sense attributes and definitions are all too often overlooked as all sorts of theories are expressed as to what it is. A spiritual kingdom in heaven. God's rule in the hearts of those who love Him. The Church. The Jewish national state in Israel. A future kingdom to be established in the millennium and so on.

Some of these ideas when compared with the above standard definition of a kingdom can easily be eliminated, so no further discussion is necessary. However, let's study what the bible says on this subject and let God's Word give us the correct answer.

## Beginnings of the Kingdom

### Abraham

As a result of Abraham's great faith, God made an unconditional covenant with Abraham. He would become a people and a nation with all the land he could see before him as an inheritance. Kings would also come from his descendants.

"And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, **my covenant is with thee**, and **thou shalt be a father of many nations**. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for **a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.** And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." (Gen 17:3-8)

### Isaac

This promise made to Abraham was confirmed to Isaac, because it was through Isaac that Abraham's descendants were to be reckoned.

"And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for **in Isaac shall thy seed be called.**" (Gen 21:12)

This promise was later reconfirmed again with Isaac, with God adding that his descendants would also be as numerous as the stars and all peoples on the earth would be blessed through them.

"And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; **And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;** Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." (Gen 26:2-5)

### Jacob

These same promises were now confirmed to Jacob and his descendants.

“And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, **I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.** And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.” (Gen 28:13-15)

Jacob's name was changed to Israel and the promises reconfirmed another two times to Israel, with God adding his descendants would become a nation and a community of nations.

“And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him. And God said unto him, **Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name:** and he called his name Israel. And God said unto him, **I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee,** and kings shall come out of thy loins; And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land. And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him.” (Gen 35:9-13)

“And said unto me, **Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people;** and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession.” (Gen 48:4)

## **Kingdom Established**

### **Israel Becomes His people**

After God lead Israel out of Egypt, He promised them (Israel) if they obeyed Him fully and kept His covenant, then they would be His treasured possession; a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. A covenant which was later made unconditional. In reply Israel agreed to do everything the Lord had said.

“Now therefore, **if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people:** for all the earth is mine: **And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.** These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. And **Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do.** And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai...” (Ex 19:5-11)

“Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears. **And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people,** which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods? **For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God.**” (2 Sam 7:22-24)

### **Israel Given God's Laws to Administer as a Nation and Follow as Individuals**

God gave Israel His commandments and statutes at Mt Sinai. The commandments providing both a summary of his entire law and a morale code for the individual. His statutes (based on the commandments) providing the nation with all the laws they would need covering all aspects of their national life including its structure of government; justice system; economy and taxes; foreign relations; personal property rights; sustainable agriculture practices; health laws; welfare system; employment relations; holidays; social responsibilities and military to name a few (Ex 20 - Deut 34). It is important to note that while Israel was to administer these laws, they could not add, remove or alter any of them since they were God's and given by Him. Something modern government might well remember.

### **Israel Begins to Take Possession of the Promised Land**

In confirmation of the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Israel under the leadership of Joshua began to take possession of the land they and their descendants were promised as an everlasting possession.

“In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, **Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:** The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.” (Gen 15:18-21 and Num 34)

“Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. **Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you,** as I said unto Moses. **From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.** There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” (Josh 1:2-5)

### **God is the King of Israel**

The nation of Israel was established as a theocracy with God as King and Ruler of Israel:

“**Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel,** and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. (Isa 44:6)

“Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian. **And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.**” (Jdg 8:22-23)

“And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, **but they have rejected me as their king.**” (1 Sam 8:7)

“But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was moving against you, you said to me, ‘No, we want a king to rule over us’ - **even though the Lord your God was your king.**” (1 Sam 12:12)

In Him all the powers of the state, legislator, executive, and judicial were united. Only He could make or change the laws and He exercised His government offices for the most part through men whom He raised up. This is the opposite to a democracy where the people elect who they want to administer the nation, with the elected officials then able to make or alter the laws. In the course of time, the people demanded their own king to the displeasure of Samuel (1 Sam 8:4-22) due to the exactions a monarch would make upon the people. However, God granted their request so they would learn their mistake and realise how much better off they were when God was their direct King and Ruler. Even so, the monarch remained the representative of God (1 Sam 10:1; 13:14; 2 Sam 5:2; 2 Kings 9:6; 1 Chron 29:22-23; Ps 2:2,7; 20:6) and as often recorded in scripture, when the monarch displeased God, another monarch was raised up.

### **Israel Established as the Kingdom of God**

To summarise, in accordance with the basic common sense definition of a kingdom given earlier and as proved by the scriptures, God established and organised His Kingdom on earth at Mount Sinai after He chose the Israelites to be His people (Ex 19:5-20 & 2 Sam 7; 22-24); gave them His laws (Ex 20- Deut 34); became their King (Isa 44:6; Judges 8:22-23; 1 Sam 8:7 & 12:12) and gave them the land promised (Gen 15:18-21 & Josh 1:2-5) after the people agreed to do all the Lord had commanded. Thereby confirming the unconditional covenant made with Abraham (Gen 17:3-8 & Jer 31:35-37) which was reconfirmed with Isaac and then Jacob (Gen 35:10-12). In doing so they were to be blessed, and in being so, act as an example to the other nations of what might be expected if they also implemented and followed God's laws (Isa 2:2-5; Mic 4:1-5; Zech 14)

### **Further Evidence as to the Timing of the Establishment of the Kingdom of God**

In the book of Daniel we are told the Kingdom of God was set up in the time of the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman rulers and was to crush “all those kingdoms”. This can't refer to a spiritual kingdom, nor a future kingdom to be set up after Christ returns. Rather, it must be a real kingdom on earth (as seen above), set up in Old Testament times and have played a critical part in crushing each and every one of the listed empires in Daniel. A study of bible prophecy concerning Israel, their history and migrations will show there was indeed a related people (Israelites known by various different names) who did play a part in the fall of each of these empires.

“Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. **Thou sawest till that a stone was cut**

**out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.** This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. **And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.**" (Dan 2:31-45)

### **Further Proof that it is Israel who is the Kingdom of God**

Both Jeremiah and Micah state it is Israel who was to shatter the nations and destroy kingdoms in fulfilment of Daniel's prophecy above. It also states in Isaiah that Israel is the rock or stone that was cut out which also relates to Daniel's prophecy in which a rock cut out without hands hits and destroys the statue of the empires.

"Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: **look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father**, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him." (Isa 51:1-2)

"Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;" (Jer 51:20)

"Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth." (Micah 4:13)

Note also, these prophesies were written during and after the captivity of Israel and Judah.

### **Jesus Himself States Israel is the Kingdom of God in the New Testament**

In Matt 21:43, Jesus speaking to the 'Jews', states "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." Up until this point the House of Judah which was in Judea, represented the Kingdom of God on earth. However, we are told that just as the House of David had been taken away from the House of Judah around 587 BC following the death of the last ruling King of Judah and replanted elsewhere (Eze 17), now the Kingdom was also to be taken from them. Since the only nation or people it could be transferred to were other Israelites, it could only have been transferred to the House of Israel (the Northern Kingdom) who had been replanted in another land as Nathan and Ezekiel promised (2 Sam 7:10-11 and Eze 34:7-31) long before.

### **David's Descendants to rule over the Kingdom of God**

We know that King David and his descendants were ruling Israel (God's representatives on earth), but God's Word also states several times that they were in fact ruling the Kingdom of God. This is yet further proof that Israel and the Kingdom of God were one and the same.

"And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and **I will establish his kingdom.** He shall build me an house, and I will establish his throne for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee: **But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.**" (1 Chr 17:11-14)

“And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) **he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.**” (1 Chr 28:5)

“Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.” (Jer 33:25-26)

### **If Israel is the Kingdom of God, then who is Israel today?**

Having discounted the Kingdom of God as some heavenly, spiritual kingdom or future kingdom yet to be established, we are left with it either being the modern Israeli state today or another nation or group of nations. As before, the Word of God gives us the answer. In fact, the bible tells us very clearly and in much detail as to the marks Israel was to be identified by in the future. Here are a few examples of God's promises to Israel:

- Become a multitude of people as countless as the stars (Gen 15:5)
- Become a nation and a community (commonwealth) of nations (Gen 35:10-11;48:19)
- Become established in another land they did not know outside Palestine (2 Sam 7:10-11)
- To settle in the 'isles of the sea', north west of Palestine (Isa 24:14-15; 49:1,12; 59:19; Jer 3:12-18, 23:8, 31:7-8, 10).
- To never cease to be a nation before God (Jer 31:35-37)
- To crush all other empires and used as a weapon in the hand of God to defeat other gentile nations (Dan 2:34-45; Jer 51:20)
- To grow to become the fifth world empire (Dan 2:44; Rom 11:25)
- To possess the gates of its enemies (Gen 22:17-18)
- Must be a sea power (Ps 89:25; Num 24:7)
- Must have immense colonies, inheriting and colonising the desolate place, islands afar off, coastlands and ends of the earth (Isa 49:8; 54:3; Jer 31:8,10)
- To retain its monarchy and have a descendant of David as King or Queen ruling over them (1 Chr 22:10; 2 Chr 13:5; Jer 33:17-26; 33:19-26; 2 Sam 7:13-16))
- To speak another language different from Hebrew (Isa 28:11)
- Become the chief of nations (Deut 26:19; Amos 6:1)
- To be blessed with great wealth (Deut 8:18; 33:13-17)
- Known worldwide for it's crops, lamb and beef (Deut 28:3-14)
- To be a blessing to mankind showing the fruits of righteousness (Matt 21:43; Gen 18:18)
- Become a great missionary people taking Christianity around the globe (Isa 27:6; 43:21; 44:3-5; 49:6; Mark 16:15 & Matt 7:20)
- To be a Christian nation (Hos 1:10; Isa 9:2,8; 45:17-19,25; 48:20; 49:3)

When studying these promises (remembering God never lies) it becomes clear that neither the 'Jews' nor the modern day Jewish state of Israel meet any of these identity marks (past or present). The reason for this is the promises were never made to the converts of Judaism (most modern day 'Jews') which is a pagan religion and anti-Christian in nature. Rather, the promises were made to the racial descendants of Jacob through the line of Isaac only (including all others who put their faith in Jesus Christ). Therefore, we must not confuse the majority of modern day 'Jews' with the Israelites of the bible! Instead, we should only identify Israel with those people who are the true descendants of the biblical Israelites and who fulfil every mark and promise the prophets of the bible wrote Israel would be identified by in the future.

Accordingly, there must be another group of people in the world today who, although lost to their real identity, are the true descendants of the biblical Israelites. A people who unlike the 'Jews' do meet all the identity marks above. When studying these promises and reviewing all the evidence, it soon becomes clear that it is the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people who are modern day Israel. This can be proven by facts, based on the fulfilment in our history of every mark the prophets of the bible wrote Israel would be identified by in the future and is also confirmed by archaeological findings, historical records, state documents (i.e. Scottish Declaration of Independence signed at Arbroath in 1320) and our people sharing with the Israelites the same racial characteristics (i.e. appearance), language (derived from Hebrew), names, traits, customs, traditions, emblems and heraldry etc. It is amazing how God fulfils all His promises and keeps His Word exactly!

## How Israel Became Known as the Anglo Saxons

To avoid confusion it must be noted the nation of Israel had split into two kingdoms long before the Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians around 721 BC (2 Kings 17). Accordingly, the Northern Kingdom of Israel should not be confused with the Southern Kingdom of Judah which is dealt with separately in the bible. Nor should it be confused with the Jews whose name only applies to the very small remnant of 42,360 of the Tribe of Judah who returned to the land of Israel about 538BC after their captivity in Babylon becoming known as the Nation of the Jews (Ezra 2:1, 64). Many of the Southern Kingdom either choose not to return to Jerusalem (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 11, Chap 1, v3) or had been taken captive earlier by the Assyrians around 721BC along with the Northern Kingdom of Israel as confirmed by the bible (2 Kings 18:13-17) and ancient Assyrian Cylinder records.

Although, the Northern Kingdom never returned to the land of Israel (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 11, Chap 5, v2), they were not forgotten, for God had long planned this and would keep all His promises and in the later days redeem and bless His people again. The prophet Nathan had announced earlier in King David's time that they were to be planted and established in another land which they did not know outside Palestine. Where they could dwell alone and safely, protected from their enemies (2 Sam 7:10-11). So when opportunity came they left Assyria and travelled westward (2 Esdras 13:40-45) across central and southern Europe, becoming known by many names including the Khumri, Sacae, Scythians, Goths, Picts, Scots, Viking, Angles, Jutes, Celts, Saxons and Normans. All different names for the Israelites, linked together by the black Obelisk of Shalmaneser, the Behistun rock in Persia and other monuments and many historians including Herodotus, Pliny, Ptolemy and Sharon Turner.

They would finally settle in the 'isles of the sea' (British Isles), north and west of Palestine (Isa 24:15; 49:1, 12; 59:19; Jer 3:12-18, 23:8, 31:7-8, 10). Note that in Hebrew the same word is used for both 'sea' and 'west', so 'isles of the sea' should be translated 'isles of the west' since an island is known to be in the sea by default and no word in scripture is wasted. Notice also that the Tribe of Dan had a long tradition of naming places after the name of their father Dan (Judges 18:11-12,26-29; Jos 19:47). This can still easily be seen today by looking at any map of Europe or Great Britain and seeing the trail left behind on their wanderings westward with hundreds of place names which incorporate the name 'Dan' and its derivatives Den, Din, Don and Dun e.g. Danube, Dneiser, London, Denmark (mark of Dan) etc. All as prophesied, for Dan was to "be a serpent by the way" (Gen 49:17), leaving their trail as they migrated.

In their new home, the Israelites were to be called after the name Isaac (Gen 21:12; Rom 9:7) i.e. Saxons (sons of Sac) because the I is dropped since in Hebrew it is rarely pronounced. They were to also lose the name Israel and be known under a new name (Isa 65:15) called great, 'Great' Britain (Gen 12:2). They would also speak a new language (Isa 28:11). The word 'British' appropriately means 'covenant man' in Hebrew and is almost spelt the same in Hebrew (Brith-ish). It's interesting on reaching their destination they would start to call themselves the 'covenant people' in Hebrew and just one example showing the remarkably close affinity the Saxon/Celtic/Welsh/English languages have with the Hebrew language. On its own, a strong proof of their origin. Not only many actual words either directly or indirectly rooted in the Hebrew language, but also sharing a similar grammatical and idiomatic construction and appears to be the only languages into which Hebrew can almost literally be translated.

These facts have been agreed by many leading past and present international language experts including William Tyndale who was fluent in eight languages (i.e. Hebrew, Greek and English) and first to translate and print the bible into English with much of the King James Bible and other versions based on his translation. Dr. Terry Blodgett, chairman of the Southern Utah State College Language Department received international attention in 1982 as a result of his research, which discovered "a major Hebrew influence" in the roots of the English language. Hebrew language scholar, Dr. Isaac Elchanan Mozeson who taught the English language at Yeshiva University, sighted over 5,000 English words with a Semitic origin and after ten years of original research in this subject concluded "that English and Hebrew are profoundly connected". James Cowles Pritchard who was called 'the founder of modern anthropology' and William H. Worrell, Associate Professor of Semitics at the University of Michigan came to the same conclusion.

Later, finding this island too small (Isa 49:19-20) they migrated west (America and West Indies), east (India), north (Canada) and south (South Africa, Australia and NZ). Fulfilling the prophesy of Gen 28:14 in the exact same order. Even the separation of Britain and America was prophesied to occur before the British started their second phase of migration which brought them to South Africa, Australia and NZ (Isa 49:19-21). Through these migrations they inherited and colonised the desolate places, islands afar off and ends of the earth (Isa 49:8; 54:3; Jer 31:8, 10). Note that both the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah address Israel as residing in the Isles (islands) of the sea (or west), coast lands and ends of the earth in latter days. They would later possess the gates of their enemies (the British Empire at its height held over 30 strategic water ways/sea gates including Rock of Gibraltar, Malta, Suez Canal, Panama Canal, Singapore, Hong Kong etc) (Gen 22:17) and become the chief of nations (Deut 26:19, Amos 6:1) as is still in evidence today. A great nation and a company (commonwealth) of nations (Gen 35:10-11; 48:19) with its monarchy still intact.

With almost all the monarchy's of Europe destroyed in recent centuries, the fact that the British monarchy still remains is directly in fulfilment of God's promise to King David that he would never cease to have one of his descendants sitting on his throne and ruling over his Kingdom. (Jer 33:17-26 and 2 Sam 7:12-16). A real throne and kingdom on earth. According to Irish and Welsh historical records; monumental inscriptions; ancient poems and traditions (Annals

of the Four Masters) and in fulfilment of prophecy (Eze 17) a Hebrew prophet named Ollam Folla (or Jeremiah) and his scribe Baruch arrived in Ireland from Egypt (Jer 1:7-19, 43:6,7, 44:14-28) around 583 BC, having escaped the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. They came with a very important 'stone' and a Hebrew Princess named Tea Tephi or Tamar Tephi (the Tender Twig of Eze 17) who was one of King Zedekiah's daughters (King of the Southern Kingdom of Judah and last king of Kings David's line to rule in Palestine). Tea Tephi later married the Irish King Eochaidh, ensuring the monarchy continued after King Zedekiah's death in 599 BC (Jer 52:10-11). Genealogies of the British Royal family have proved their ancestry back through this line to King David.

This is further proven by the many customs, traditions, emblems, symbols, ceremonies and laws of succession (Num 27:8) shared with the Kings of Israel detailed in the bible. One example being the Israelites custom to crown their Kings on or by one particular stone (2 Kings 11:14 and 23:3) and the people shout "God save the King" (1 Sam 10:24; 2 Sam 16:16; 2 Kings 11:12). This is still our custom today with all the Kings and Queens of Great Britain (Ireland, Scotland, England) being crowned upon the same stone for 2500 yrs dating back to 583 BC when Tea Tephi married the Irish King Eochaidh. Edward the First had a coronation chair built in 1296 AD to accommodate this stone which still sits in Westminster Abbey today, with Queen Elizabeth II crowned on it in 1953. And yes they shouted "God save the Queen" just like our forefathers before us. This stone the English call "Jacob's Pillow" with its battered surface, large crack and two iron rings attached almost worn through, all bear witness to its long migrations. Wear which must have occurred long before 583 BC during Israel's long wanderings in the desert since historians know it's only been moved 3 times since then, which is in fulfilment of the prophecy that the throne of David would be overturned 3 times (Eze 21:25-27). Israel to Ireland in 583 BC; Ireland to Scotland in 506 AD and lastly Scotland to England in 1603 AD where it will remain "until he come whose right it is; and I will give it Him" when Christ comes to sit upon the throne of David (Luke 1: 31-33).

Christ commanded his disciples to go not to the gentiles, but to the 'lost sheep' of Israel (Matt 10:5-7) to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God (clearly not a spiritual kingdom, but a literal kingdom on earth). Christ surely knew where His 'lost sheep' or lost Israelites were to be found since there is nothing hidden from Him and He had said He was also "sent only to the lost sheep of Israel" (Matt 15:24) and previously spoken through the prophets that He Himself would search for His sheep and after finding them, bring them out of the nations and look after them in their own land (Eze 34: 7-31). At that time the lost Israelites had long since left Palestine as stated previously and were to be found elsewhere as confirmed by James (James 1:1). Since Christ was sending His disciples to preach to the lost Israelites, He must have told them where they were to be found which appears to have been in Britain since the Christian religion was brought directly to Britain from Jerusalem by Joseph of Arimathea and other disciples soon after, if not before the crucifixion. There are many proofs and certainly a great deal of tradition that the apostle Simon and later St Paul visited Britain along with others too.

It was Britain who built the world's first ever church (Glastonbury, England around 38 AD) before taking Christianity to Rome. Facts confirmed by many records, including the rulings of the early councils of the Roman Catholic church. It was Britain who became the first ever Christian people and nation in 156 AD by Act of its government (British Triads) (Hos 1:10; Isa 9:2; 44:3-5; 45:17-19; 45:25; 48:20; 49:3) and throughout her history has always been a great missionary people having taken Christianity around the globe (Isa 27:6; 43:21; 44:3-5; Mark 16:15 and Matt 7:20) not to mention the translation, printing and distribution of the bible itself which continues to this day. Did not Christ tell the Jews that the Kingdom of God would be taken from them and given to a people who would produce its fruit (Matt 21:43).

What other fruits have we the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people produced? The British Empire along with its American offshoot became the greatest empire ever established and surely the fifth world empire of Daniel 2:34-45. An empire covering vast distances, lands and people of many races, languages and cultures spreading to the ends of the world (Isa 54:3) with both Britain and America still the chief of nations today (Deut 26:19, Amos 6:1). An empire not won by might or force alone or ruled by a dictator like all others before it, but one based on law and order, peace, justice, kindness, liberty and religious tolerance (Lev 19:33-34). This was in line with Christ's words "My Kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36) meaning not established through war and bloodshed, oppression and hatred since the Greek word here translated 'world' is 'kosmos' meaning arrangement or order of things. Although not without its imperfections like all human institutions. Surely we have been a blessing to all nations (Gen 18:18) with all colonies established endowed with self government. No other colony established before it by any other nation or power was endowed with these same rights. We were also the first peoples to abolish the lucrative Trans Atlantic slave trade in 1807 and then throughout the British Empire in 1833 (Isa 49:8-9; 58:6) freeing the oppressed and breaking their yoke and later adopting the policy of free trade in 1846 throughout the empire. Opening our markets to all and our gates to all foreigners (Lev 19:33). Did not New Zealand carry on this tradition by accepting the Maori people as equal partners and the first in the world to give women the vote? What other people have given so much freely to the world without seeking anything in return.

God said Israel, His 'Stone Kingdom' (our royalty ruling on a stone) would be established and become the fifth world empire as above and never be destroyed. Crushing the other empires and bringing them to an end (Dan 2: 34-45; Jer 51:20). Throughout our history, the British, Commonwealth and US nations have always been God's battle axe (Jer 51:20) defeating and crushing stronger nations and empires than ours, with our smaller armies (Lev 26:8; Deut 20:1-4), but powerful navy (Num 24:7). Remaining undefeated (Isa 54:17) and still enduring today. As an example, Philip of

Spain and his 'Invincible Armada' and Napoleon and his 'Grand Army' were both destroyed by Britain. In modern times, it was the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic nations who stood almost alone against overwhelming odds to defeat the German Kaiser and his allies in WWI and then against Hitler and his allies Italy and Japan in WWII, to free Europe, the Pacific and the Middle East. A blessing indeed! Wasn't the Ottoman Empire also destroyed by the British alone when General Allenby took Jerusalem in 1917 in fulfillment of the prophecy that it would be Israel who laid vengeance upon Edom or Turkey (Eze 25:13-14) thereby claiming our inheritance to the Holy Land. Was it not the Anglo Saxon people again who stood against the Russian Empire and spread of communism and now terrorism worldwide so all mankind might be free and secure from despotism and fear?

Let's not forget that Anglo-Saxon-Celtic nations (i.e. Britain, America, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia) were founded upon the very commandments, statutes and judgments given by God to the Israelites at Mt Sinai. The English Common Law, Magna Carta and Bill of Rights etc inherited from England broadly based, though imperfectly on God's law given through Moses. Laws if administered and followed guaranteed us great national blessings including wealth and prosperity, peace, health and liberty beyond our dreams. Surely, throughout our history we have also been blessed with great wealth and abundance (Deut 8:18 and 33:13-17) and especially known worldwide for our crops, lamb and beef (Deut 28:3-14) all as God promised. Surely we will be known by our fruits as the Lord Jesus said and if we as the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people meet all God's identity marks and promises made to and for Israel, then we must be Israel. What other nation, empire or people still in existence today (God promised the descendants of Israel would never cease to be a nation before Him, Jer 31:35-37), can claim to be God's servant people? A Christian people and nation living in the isles of the sea, coast lands and ends of the earth and meeting all the above identify marks? A great nation and company of nations with our monarchy still in place; the chief of nations bearing the necessary fruit and being a blessing to mankind?

God has foretold that in the last days when we are in grave danger, we will remember Him and cry out to our God and in our repentance, He will deliver and restore us (Eze 39:21-29). Then all the world will know that we are His people. At that time Christ will return to earth to sit upon the Throne of David (His throne) and rule over the House of Jacob (us), (Luke 1: 31-33) that we might finally have justice, equity, freedom, protection, general wellbeing, happiness, health, peace and prosperity in our land.

It's time we recognised and acknowledged who we are (modern day Israel); who our God is and as God's people, our responsibility and destiny to administer all His laws and as individuals to follow them so we might finally obtain all God's blessings.

### **Israel Not Lost or Rejected Forever**

Unfortunately, there are those who will ignore the above facts and insist that Israel was permanently rejected and is therefore no longer part of God's plan. Although Israel had been rejected and divorced by God in judgement for their sins, this was not to be permanent since God promised they would never cease to be a nation before Him and were to be restored at the end of their punishment (Jer 3:8-25; 31:1-37 & 50:17-20). This was made possible through the death of Christ enabling divorced and rejected Israel to be restored to the Abrahamic Covenant so in the place they were called "not my people", they could be called "the sons of the living God" when God promised He would make a new covenant with Israel:

**"Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God"** (Hos 1:10)

**"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever."** (Jer 31:32-36)

**"Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O**



**my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.** The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, 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...And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.** And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: **they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever:** and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. **Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.** (Eze 37:11-28)

Accordingly, Israel (the northern ten tribes) was never permanently rejected by God nor ever ceased to exist as a people or nation. Nor were they replaced by the Jews or the church.

Of course, as discussed earlier, during their time of punishment Israel was not to be found in Palestine, as is the case today since they were replanted in another land as prophesied (2 Sam 7:10-11 Eze 34:7-31) until the last days. It's important to note the prophesy Nathan spoke to King David, of God providing a place for His people and planting them in a home of their own where they would no longer be disturbed was made at the time Israel had just settled in the land of Israel. Therefore, it seems common sense God must have been referring to another land outside Palestine where He would replant them.

In fact, this is what occurred, for the bible states that all Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians around 721 BC; that God removed all Israel from His presence (i.e. removed them from Palestine) and doesn't mention anyone returning except one priest. This is further confirmed in 2 Esdras 13:40-45 stating when the House of Israel was captive in Assyria, they took "counsel among themselves, that they would leave the multitudes of the heathen, and go forth into a further country, where never mankind dwelt". Josephus the renown ancient Jewish historian, wrote in his Antiquities of the Jews, Book 2, Chapter 5, v2 that out of all the "entire body of Israel" (12 tribes), only 2 tribes remained in Asia and Europe subject to the Romans since the "ten tribes were beyond Euphrates till now" and were an "immense multitude, and could not be estimated by numbers". This migration has also been confirmed by many leading historians, archaeological findings and historical records which is all in fulfilment of the prophesies and promises concerning Israel.

In Ezekiel 34, the House of Israel is described by God as being His sheep and His people and states He Himself would search for them and look after them.

Son of man, **prophesy against the shepherds of Israel**, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks...The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick,...**neither have ye sought that which was lost;** but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered...For thus saith the Lord GOD; **Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered** in the cloudy and dark day. ... **I will seek that which was lost,** and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment. ... And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. ... **Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD.** (Eze 34: 2-31).

“And he said, **I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd**: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.” (1Ki 22:17)

“**My people hath been lost sheep**: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place.” (Jer 50:6)

“**Israel is a scattered sheep**; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.” (Jer 50:17)

“I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; **I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah**, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.” (Mic 2:12)

Jesus Himself confirmed the House of Israel had become lost to the world (though surely not to Himself) and therefore located outside Palestine (otherwise they wouldn't be lost!). He states several times, including in Matt 15:24 that He was sent only to the “lost sheep of Israel” and commanded His apostles to go and preach only to the “lost sheep of Israel” just as prophesied.

“These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: **But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel**. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matt 10:5-7).

Christ surely knew where His 'lost sheep' or lost Israelites were to be found since there is nothing hidden from Him and He also said “I am not sent but unto the **lost sheep of the house of Israel**.” (Matt 15:24)

“**For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost**.” (Mat 18:11) and “And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, **Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost**.” (Luk 15:6).

Since Christ was sending His disciples to preach to the lost Israelites, He must have told them where they were to be found which appears to have been in Britain since the Christian religion was brought directly to Britain from Jerusalem by Joseph of Arimathea and other disciples soon after, if not before the crucifixion. Again, there are many proofs and certainly a great deal of tradition that the apostle Simon and later St Paul visited Britain along with others too.

Accordingly, Israel was to be found in the Isles north west of Palestine; in the desolate places, islands afar off, coastlands and ends of the earth. A race of people sharing the same heritage, culture and traditions. Living together as a nation and group of nations. A group of Christian nations blessed with great wealth, known worldwide for its crops, lamb and beef. A blessing to mankind showing the fruits of righteousness having been a great missionary people taking Christianity around the globe all as prophesied.

### **Church Not the Kingdom of God**

Others may claim that the Church is God's Kingdom. However it is also clear the church isn't Israel or the Kingdom of God since it isn't a people or a nation and the promises were never transferred from Israel to the church. As above, it is true Jesus said the Kingdom of God was being taken from the Jews, but He says it would be “given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Matt 21:43). Not the church! Besides, the church doesn't meet any of the promises or prophecies made to Israel anyway.

For example, the bible says that the Kingdom of God would continue to contain both good and evil (wheat, tares, good and bad fish) until Christ returned to establish His rule on earth over the House of Jacob (Luke 1:31-33) and eventually the whole world (Isa 65:17-25). Surely, the true church doesn't contain good and evil people?

Of course, some will still quote John 18:36 as evidence that the Kingdom of God is simply some spiritual kingdom:

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

They interpret this verse to mean that Christ's kingdom has nothing to do with a real kingdom or him reigning from David's throne on the earth, but rather a spiritual kingdom operating through the "church" since Pentecost. They read, "My kingdom is not of this world" as synonymous with, "My kingdom is not of this earth". However, "world" and "earth"

are not interchangeable. The 'world' Jesus referred to was the constitution or order of things since the Greek word here translated 'world' is 'kosmos' meaning "arrangement or order of things."

Jesus certainly had no part, nor lot in the world of the Pharisees and Romans. As Jesus continued, "my kingdom is not from hence" i.e. my kingdom is not like these other kingdoms. Meaning it was not a kingdom won or established through war and bloodshed, oppression and hatred (that's why His servants were not to fight) or ruled by a dictator like all other kingdoms before it (Babylonia, Persia, Greece, Rome etc), but one based on law and order, peace, justice, prosperity, kindness, liberty and tolerance toward others (Lev 19:33-34).

Others quote, Jesus saying that the Kingdom of God is "within you" (Luke 17:21). With this statement, many people believe that the kingdom only exists in the hearts and minds of men. Such assumptions are incorrect for several reasons. The Greek word 'entos', translated "within" is better translated "in the midst of" (Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, 1985, "Within"). Several translations, including the New American Standard Bible and Modern KJV translate Christ's words as "the kingdom of God is in your midst." Jesus could not have meant that the kingdom was in their hearts. The Pharisees wanted to destroy him (Matt 12:14; Mark 3:6). Instead, Jesus was pointing out the paradox that the Pharisees did not have the spiritual discernment to recognize that the message of the Kingdom of God was at hand and being offered to them (Matt 23:15-17). To punctuate this point, Jesus, referring to Himself, said "the kingdom of God is among you" (New Revised Standard Version). The spiritually blind Pharisees did not recognize Jesus as the divine representative of that Kingdom. Rather than telling the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God was something in their hearts, Jesus Christ warned them that they were so spiritually blind they couldn't recognize the very personification of that Kingdom in Him.

### **Most Churches Believe the Jews are Israel and or the Kingdom of God**

Unfortunately, many Christians have mistakenly viewed the term Israelite and 'Jew' as relating to the same people even though this understanding and doctrine isn't supported by either scripture or history. Instead it's based on the same Zionist reasoning that started to be promoted in the early 1900s stating since they are called Jews, and the Jews were promised the land in Palestine, then they must be God's people and therefore Israel.

However, we must remind ourselves the nation of Israel split into two separate nations after King Solomon's death (1 Kings 12). The House of Israel (10 Tribes in Northern Palestine) which after being taken captive by the Assyrians never returned to Palestine, but migrated north west to the land they would be replanted. The House of Judah (3 Tribes in Southern Palestine) which after their captivity by the Babylonians we are told only a small remnant of descendants returned. From the time of their separation in King Rehoboam's day, both nations and peoples were completely separate and were treated as such in the bible. This included the promises and prophecies made after this event. Accordingly, when the Prophets directed their prophecies to Israel, it is to the House of Israel they must be applied and vice versa. It is a common mistake to apply the promises made to Israel to Judah or the 'Jews'. Of course, the House of Israel and the House of Judah are prophesied to join together and return from the northern land to Palestine after Christ returns and establishes His rule from Jerusalem (Jer 3:14-18).

We must also remember that God's promises to Israel remain unfulfilled by the modern day 'Jews', because they were never made to the converts of Judaism (modern day definition of a 'Jew') which is a pagan religion and completely anti-Christian in nature. Rather, the promises were made to the racial descendants of Jacob through the line of Isaac only. Therefore, we must not confuse the majority of modern day 'Jews' with the Israelites of the bible! Instead, we should only identify Israel with those people who are the true descendants of the biblical Israelites and who fulfil every mark and promise the prophets of the bible wrote Israel would be identified by in the future.

Unfortunately, few Christians appear to understand that most modern day 'Jews' are not racial descendants of the Israelites, but mere converts to Judaism. A religion which despite what many Christians believe is not based on the Old Testament or even the Torah (books of Moses), but is based on the Jewish Talmud. A collection of books written in the centuries immediately before Christ and shortly after which contain the accumulated sayings of the learned Jewish sages and Rabbis, including the 'oral law' which they believe was handed down by Moses to the religious leaders, parallel, but different to the 'written law' as recorded in the first 5 books of the bible. The Jewish Talmud is a most violent and anti-Christian book and condones and encourages every possible crime and perversion provided it is against a 'non-Jew'. The Jews themselves don't believe or teach that Christianity originated from Judaism:

"This is not an uncommon impression and one finds it sometimes among Jews as well as Christians - that Judaism is the religion of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). It is, of course, a fallacious impression...Judaism is not the religion of the Bible." (Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser, "Judaism and the Christian Predicament", page 59)

"The return from Babylon and the introduction of the Babylonian Talmud mark the end of Hebrewism and the beginning of Judaism." (The late Rabbi Stephen F. Wise, formerly the Chief Rabbi of the United States)

"Judaism is, specifically, the religion of a Jewish community living among Gentile peoples and is to be distinguished from the religion of ancient Israel." (Funk & Wagnalls Standard Reference Encyclopaedia, 1959, Volume 14)

"...you will notice the great difference between the Jewish and Christian religions. But these are not all. We consider the two religions so different that one excludes the other...we emphasized that there is no such thing as a Judeo-Christian religion...There is not any similarity between the two concepts" (Rabbi Moshe M. Maggal, President, National Jewish Information Service, Letter of August 21, 1961).

The London Jewish World of March 15, 1923 declared: "Fundamentally, Judaism is anti-Christian."

The few true Jewish people in existence make up an even smaller portion of Israelites since the term 'Jew' is only applied in the bible to the very small remnant of 42,360 of the Tribe of Judah who returned to the land of Israel about 538BC after their captivity in Babylon when they become known as the Nation of the Jews (Ezra 2:1, 64). This is confirmed by the Jewish historian Josephus who wrote "Jew is the name they are called by from the day that they came up from Babylon." (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 2, Chapter 5). Compare this to the entire nation of Edom who were already living in Judaea when the tiny remnant of Judah returned, and who were converted to Judaism under John Hyrcanus in 126 BC, well before the Lord Jesus was born. Never mind all the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Samaritans and the rest who had taken over the land when the Israelites were removed from the land of Israel (2 Kings 17:24).

Therefore, we must not confuse the majority of modern day 'Jews' with the Israelites of the bible! Instead, we should only identify Israel with those people who are the true descendants of the biblical Israelites and who fulfil every mark and promise the prophets of the bible wrote Israel would be identified by in the future.

In fact, the number of true 'Jews' was reduced further as they inter-married with other races in disobedience to God's commands soon after they returned from captivity, while many other races of people converted to the Jewish faith and also became known as 'Jews'. In Esther 8:17 we are told "many people of other nationalities became Jews because the fear of the Jews had seized them". The entire nation of Edom was converted to Judaism under John Hyrcanus in 126 BC when their kingdom was destroyed by the 'Nation of the Jews' and the whole nation of the Khazars (a Turkic-Mongoloid people from southern Russia) converted to Judaism around the 8th century AD. They later spread out to become the 'Jewish' populations of Eastern Europe.

Together these two groups, neither of which were descended from the ancient Israelites of the Bible, make up a large majority of today's 'Jews'. Even the Jewish encyclopaedias testify to the fact that both the Edomites and Khazars are to be found among the Jewish people today. As a result of this change, we must be careful not to assume all those who call themselves 'Jews', are in fact the actual racial descendants of the Tribe of Judah. Just as Christ was careful not to when talking to those who called themselves 'Jews' in His day.

Is it not possible that Christ in John 8 was acknowledging that although they might be able to claim Abraham as their father, they were at best descended through the line of Esau who was rejected by God, rather than through the line of Jacob? They stated themselves that their forefathers had never been slaves of anyone, which would prove the point since if they were Israelites their forefathers would certainly have been slaves in Egypt.

Due to all the inter-marrying and other races converting to Judaism and calling themselves 'Jews' also, it has become vital we understand the difference between Israel and the modern day 'Jews'. This is because the word 'Jew' now means something completely different to the Hebrew and Greek words it was originally translated from. While the term 'Jew', was once a racial label referring to a "descendant of Judah" (Strong's Concordance) and "One belonging to the tribe or to the Kingdom of Judah" (Westminster Dictionary of the Bible), it has since been changed into a mere religious one. Enabling many different nationalities who were never descendants of Abraham through the line of Isaac and Jacob (Israel) to claim themselves to be 'Jews' who are not. This problem is referred to by Jesus in John 8 and in Revelation 2 and 3 where we are told there would be those who would call themselves 'Jews', but who were not.

However, for us we should only use the biblical meaning when trying to understand the term 'Jew' ("descendant of Judah") rather than any new modern political or religious meaning which differs from it and as a result causes much confusion. Accordingly, the bible is clear. The word 'Jew' can only correctly be applied to a racial descendant of the tribe of Judah. Anyone else using or calling themselves by this name is not an actual 'Jew' or Israelite.

There are many reasons why so many make the mistake of viewing the Israelite (Israel) and 'Jew' (Judah) as the same people even though this understanding isn't supported by either scripture or history. The 'Jews' themselves understand the difference and state that "Strictly speaking it is incorrect to call an Ancient Israelite a 'Jew' or to call a contemporary Jew an Israelite or a Hebrew" (1980 Jewish Almanac, article entitled "A brief History of the Terms for Jew" pg.3).

Maybe the best definition of the term 'Jew' in its modern context rather than its true biblical meaning is best summed up by the modern Israeli State government itself who state "The term Israelite is purely biblical. An Israeli is a citizen of Israel, regardless of religion. A Jew is a person anywhere in the world born to a Jewish mother, or converted to Judaism, who is thus identified as a member of the Jewish people or religion." (Information Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem, February 1998).

Accordingly, the Jewish authorities agree that the word 'Jew' now refers to a person's religion, not their race or ethnic background as it does in the bible. This is why there are 'Jews' of every race, because the modern definition of a 'Jew' does not denote race as the original Hebrew word does in the bible. This response is perfectly in accordance with the Halakha (Jewish Law) which also defines a 'Jew' as any person, anywhere in the world, who is born to a mother who is already a Jew or who converts to Judaism themselves. Converting to Judaism makes one not only a member of the religion of Judaism, but also "a member of the Jewish people" they say. This clearly demonstrates that according to Halakha, the word "Jew" refers to a person's religion, not their race or ethnic background. In context then it is no different from the words "Muslim" or "Buddhist". Note that the term Israelite is defined as "purely biblical" and therefore has no relevance to the definition of a 'Jew'. It is vitally important that we understand this if we are to properly comprehend what follows.

The fact is, the vast majority of 'Jews' living in Palestine during the Lord's day were not Israelites as is still true today. After the entire nation of Israel and most of Judah was taken captive by the Assyrians, only one priest is said to have been allowed to return (2 Kings 17:23-28). Of the remaining nation of Judah, taken captive by the Babylonians, less than 42,500 are said to have returned under Ezra and Nehemiah (Ezra 2:1, 64).

During the rule of the Maccabees, "Judas Maccabeus retook Hebron and the other towns that the Edomites had occupied (1 Macc. 5:65; Jos. Antiq. Xii. 8, 6). John Hyrcanus compelled the Edomites to submit to the rite of circumcision, and incorporated them with the Jewish people (Jos. Antiq. Xiii. 9, 1). The Herods were Idumeans, i.e. Edomites. (The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible under "Edomites")

"Hyrcanus took also Dora and Marissa, cities of Idumea, and subdued all the Idumeans; and permitted them to stay in that country, if they would circumcise their genitals, and make use of the laws of the Jews...they were hereafter no other than Jews." (Jewish Historian Flavius Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book XIII, Chapter IX, sec. 1)

"Herod the Great...was the second son of the Idumean Antipas or Antipater... (Jos. Antiq. xiv. 1, 3; 7, 3). Thus, neither by the father's nor by the mother's side was Herod a real Jew, though the Idumeans, who had been conquered by John Hyrcanus, and compelled to be circumcised and adopt Judaism, had now become nominally Jews." (The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible under "Herod")

Following the conversion of the Edomites to Judaism, "Antipater the Idumean", the Edomite governor, became procurator of Judea, Galilee and Samaria. Through collusion with the Romans he consolidated his power and effectively usurped the Judahite throne by arranging for his son Herod the Great, followed by his grandson Herod Antipas, to become the king of Judea. Herod the Great also took over the religious affairs of the nation, in addition to the throne rebuilding the temple to his own requirements and specifications, taking control of the priesthood and appointment of the high priest:

"Antipater was made procurator of Judea by Julius Caesar in 47 BC." (Jos. Antiq. xiv. 8, 3 and 5). "Phasaelus, the eldest son, was made governor of Jerusalem...by his father, and Galilee was committed to Herod" (Jos. Antiq. xiv. 9, 2). Later "war ensued"...and "Jerusalem was captured by Herod and Herod became king of Judea in 37 BC." (The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible under "Herod")

In Esther 8:17 we are also told "many people of other nationalities became Jews because the fear of the Jews had seized them". So by the time the Lord Jesus arrived in Palestine many different nationalities had begun calling themselves 'Jews', but it was the Edomites who had seized the kingdom from the true Judahites, the descendants of the tiny remnant of exiles who had returned from Babylon. The Edomites had control of the land, the throne and the temple when the Lord Jesus was there. They were posing as true Israelites of the house of Judah, but the Lord Jesus knew that they were impostors (John 8) and He warns us about them in the book of Revelation:

"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan." (Rev 2:9)

"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee." (Rev 3:9).

Maybe the knowledge that the bulk of the people present in Judea in the days of our Lord Jesus as is the case today are not and were not Israelites seems absurd to you, or maybe you are just finding it difficult to take in. If so, then please realize that the Edomites were simply doing what Isaac had prophesied they would do when, on comforting Esau, who had just thrown away his birthright said:

"And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother [Israel]; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion [Kingdom], that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck." (Gen 27:40)

From this it is logical that Esau/Edom was to possess the kingdom at some point in time. So given the history of Judea just prior to the arrival of the Lord Jesus and in recent history, is there really anything at all startling in what is being said here? If Esau's descendants were not in possession of the kingdom at the time of the Lord Jesus, then when exactly were they in possession of it? If not then, they appear to certainly be in possession of it now, with the political 'Jews' (Zionists) claiming Israel for themselves after WWI. With the blessing of politicians and church leaders they have been able to simply take possession of it as they continue to do so today. Again the bible tells us that these people would be no other than the Edomites (Eze 33:24-29; 36:1-8 and Mal 1:1-5).

Since the time of Christ, this admixture of other races claiming to be 'Jews' has only intensified with many more nationalities and races of people converting to Judaism through the centuries and also becoming known as 'Jews' as continues even today.

The confusion surrounding the term 'Jews' and its misuse has unfortunately been made more difficult by many churches, governments and various 'Jewish' groups spreading the falsehood (many unintentionally) that the 'Jews' represent all Israel.

However, for us we should only use the biblical meaning when trying to understand the term 'Jew' ("descendant of Judah") rather than any new modern political or religious meaning which differs from it and as a result causes much confusion. Accordingly, the bible is clear. The word 'Jew' can only correctly be applied to a racial descendant of the tribe of Judah. Anyone else using or calling themselves by this name is not an actual 'Jew' or Israelite.

Please don't misunderstand what is being stated here. I am not saying there are no true 'Jews' (descendants of Judah). I am simply making several important points. Firstly, most 'Jews' today are not racial descendants, but rather converts to a pagan religion and therefore have nothing to do with the biblical Israelites. Secondly, the few true 'Jews' (descendants of Judah) who do exist only represent a small proportion of Israelites since the bulk of Israelites are descended from the other 11 tribes and are therefore not 'Jews'. Thirdly, Judaism is not based on the bible, but based on the Talmud made up shortly before and after Christ. Lastly, Christianity did originate from Judaism, but rather predates Judaism by thousands of years.

It is sad that our politicians and church leaders did not take the time to study the facts, but instead simply believed the Zionist claims without ever asking for any evidence to prove their claims of descent. As a result true Israelites, which include true racial Jews and all who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, have had their rightful inheritance taken from them by a people whose ancestors never lived in Palestine. Until this is rectified, the violence and bloodshed in the Middle East will continue. It is interesting that this all appears to have been prophesied in the bible stating that the Edomites would claim Palestine for themselves Eze 33:24-29 and 36:5-8; Mal 1:4-5. Isn't it amazing that after thousands of years they are still trying to get the birth right and inheritance back which they had lost to Jacob and his descendants?

## Summary

In accordance with the basic common sense definition of a kingdom given at the beginning and as proved by the scriptures, God established and organised His Kingdom on earth at Mount Sinai after He chose the Israelites to be His people (Ex 19:5-20 & 2 Sam 7; 22-24); gave them His laws (Ex 20- Deut 34); became their King (Isa 44:6; Judges 8:22-23; 1 Sam 8:7 & 12:12) and gave them the land promised (Gen 15:18-21 & Josh 1:2-5) after the people agreed to do all the Lord had commanded. Thereby confirming the unconditional covenant made with Abraham (Gen 17:3-8 & Jer 31:35-37) which was reconfirmed with Isaac and then Jacob (Gen 35:10-12). In doing so they were to be blessed,

and in being so, act as an example to the other nations of what might be expected if they also implemented and followed God's laws (Isa 2:2-5; Mic 4:1-5; Zech 14)

A real kingdom on earth which must only be identified with the true descendants of the biblical Israelites. Having studied these promises and reviewed all the evidence, it is clear that it is the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people who are modern day Israel. This can be proven by facts, based on the fulfilment in our history of every mark the prophets of the bible wrote Israel would be identified by in the future and is also confirmed by archaeological findings, historical records, state documents (i.e. Scottish Declaration of Independence signed at Arbroath in 1320) and our people sharing with the Israelites the same racial characteristics (i.e. appearance), language (derived from Hebrew), names, traits, customs, traditions, emblems and heraldry etc.

It is amazing how God fulfils all His promises and keeps His Word exactly!