

SYLVIA'S CORNER

MISCONCEIVED IDEAS ABOUT THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Mormons who receive their Patriarchal Blessings claim to be either from the tribe of Ephraim or the tribe of Manasseh. Is this possible?

I'll document the facts--you draw your own conclusions.

After the death of King Solomon, there was a division of Israel. Two nations were formed. There was Israel in the north, and Judah in the South. This happened in 930 B.C. According to 2 Kings 17:22-23, Israel was captured by Assyria. This occurred in about 721 B.C. There were ten tribes in the northern kingdom. In about 586 B.C., the Babylonians conquered the tribes of Judah and Benjamin which resided in the kingdom of Judah. Both the nations of Israel and Judah participated in idolatry.

The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles tell us that there were still godly people from ALL the tribes of Israel that went to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the God of their fathers. 2 Chronicles 15:9 says specifically that others followed from Ephraim and Manasseh. This was during the reign of King Asa

During the Assyrian capture previously mentioned in 721 B.C., King Hezekiah invited many of the northern tribes to Judah. In 622 B.C., more faithful Israelites came to help rebuild the temple. See 2 Chron. 34:9.

New information now substantiates these claims. Recently archaeologists have discovered the annals of the Assyrian Sargon. According to this new information, 27,290 people and 50 chariots were deported. Since an estimated half million Israelites are purported to have lived in Ephraim then, it would mean that only about 5% or one-twentieth would have traveled to the east. Apparently those that did migrate to Assyria settled around the Caspian Sea in mass numbers. This can be checked out by reading information

by the Jewish historian Josephus.

Then in 536 B.C., the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity. Then in I Chr. 9:2-3 it says, "Now the first inhabitants that dwelt in their possessions in their cities were, the Israelites, the priests, Levites, and Nethinims. And in Jerusalem dwelt the children of Benjamin, and the children of EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH." So this should make it very clear that any references to Ephraim and Manasseh being part of anyone other than the Jewish race is completely erroneous.

The apostle Peter addressed the Jews in the New Testament in Acts 3:12 as "Ye men of Israel." In Acts 2:22 verse 36 he says, "Therefore let the house of Israel know assuredly..." Acts 4:10 reads, "Be it known to you all and to ALL the people of Israel..." Peter identifies the Jews as the WHOLE house of Israel.

It's interesting to me that during the time of Hitler we do not find records of any people that were not Jewish wanting to claim to be so.

I wonder from reading God's word whether you can draw any other conclusion than I do. It seems to me that the Bible is very clear. Israel means Israel, and Jews are Jews.

Someday the Jews will know which tribe they came from. With the possible exception of the Levites, this is not known to them right now, but God knows! And during the Tribulation period, 144,000 Jews from all twelve tribes will be sealed and protected from the judgments that will occur. They will come to faith in the Messiah and evangelize the world.

It is also interesting that when you read REVELATION 7, two of the tribe names have been replaced. THESE two are Dan and EPHRAIM. This is because during the days of the judges, Jeroboam's idols were placed in those tribes. So Dan is replaced with Levi, and Ephraim by Joseph, his father.

So armed with this information, can you find ANY WAY that Mormon's or anyone else can claim that they are part of Jewish ancestry? I certainly can't.