

Understanding Israel

The Twelve Tribes



"Blow the Great Shofar for our freedom, and lift up a banner to gather the exiles, and gather us from the four corners of the earth."

"Blessed are You, O Lord, who gathers the banished of your people Israel."



ESV Genesis 2:21-24 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast (cleave) to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

NKJ Genesis 15:1 *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." ² But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"*



³ Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."



⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

- Abram's children to be a great multitude
- Belief = Righteousness

NKJ **Genesis 17:1 - 4** *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him . . . I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly . . . and you shall be a father of many nations (**hamon goyim**).*

הַמּוֹן – roar, crowd, noisy

גּוֹיִם – nations, gentiles, heathen

NKJ **Genesis 12:3** *I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (**barak**).“*

barak = בָּרַךְ

YLT And I bless those blessing thee, and him
who is disesteeming thee I curse, and
blessed in thee have been all families of
the ground.‘

barak = בָּרַךְ

וְנִבְרְכוּ בְךָ כָּל מְשַׁפְּחַת הָאָדָמָה

נִבְרְכוּ = ‘nevrecoo’ = mixed, grafted in

So far:

1. Understanding (marriage) covenants is important if we are to understand Israel
2. The promise to Abram was of having a multitude of descendants
3. His belief was considered Righteousness
4. The multitude would be
 1. Noisy (hamon)
 2. Possibly heathen (goy)
5. Israel to be a group of nations
6. The seed of Abram would be mixed with the nations
7. YHVH is responsible for bringing this about



The Promise Passed to Jacob:

ESV Genesis 28:3 ³ God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a **company** of peoples . . .

קָהָל = **kahal** = assembly

KJV . . . an assembly of peoples

LXE . . . gatherings (**ekklesia**) of nations.

- Jacob renamed “Israel”
- All the son’s constitute the tribes of Israel
- Only one tribe was named “Judah”

The Sons of Israel



Reuban

Simeon

Levi

Judah

Dan

Naptali

Gad

Asher

Issachar

Zebulun

Joseph

Benjamin

Very Important!

All twelve brothers are Israelites, but only one tribe is 'Jewish'.

**“All Jews are Israelites,
But not all Israelites are Jews!”**



Joseph

- More words spoken about him than any other person except Yeshua
- Takes up the last 1/3 of Genesis
- Many parallels to Yeshua



Joseph

- Eleventh son of Israel, but the firstborn of Israel's first wife (Rachael)
- Was reckoned as the Firstborn after Reuban defiled his father's bed (1 Chron. 5:1)



ESV Genesis 48:1 After this, Joseph was told, "Behold, your father is ill." So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. ² And it was told to Jacob, "Your son Joseph has come to you." Then Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed. ³ And Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, ⁴ and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.'



- Joseph's two sons:
 - Ephraim
 - Manasseh

ESV Genesis 48:5 And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are.



KJV **Genesis 48:16** *The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and **let my name be named on them** . . . and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.*

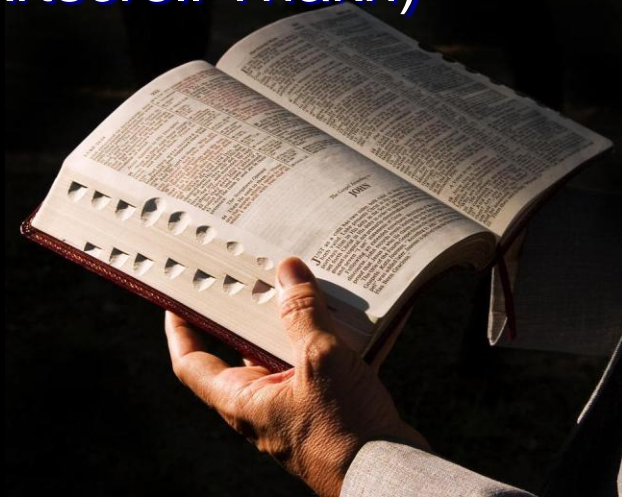


*“ . . . and let them grow (**dagah**) into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”*

דָּגַהּ = dagah (1711) = “multiply”

דָּגָה = dagah (1710) = “fish”

“ . . . let them proliferate like fish.” (Artscroll Tnakh)



- Ephraim (the younger) - leader of the two brothers and the leader of “Israel”

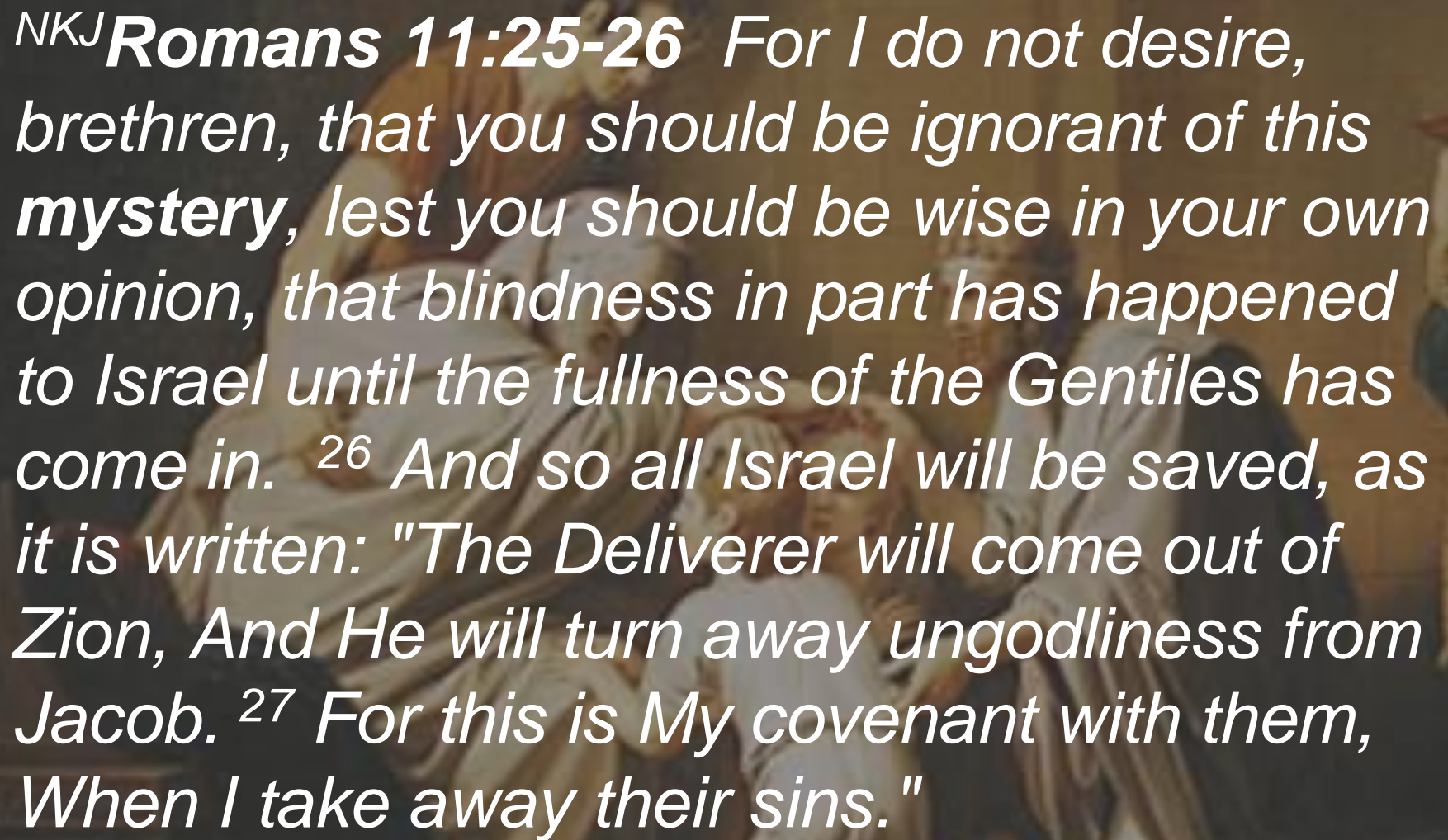
NKJ **Genesis 48:19** *But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother (Ephraim) shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."*

“... and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations (**melo ha goyim**).”

מלא = melo' (4393) = fullness, fill up

‘melo ha goyim’ = ‘fullness of the nations’

‘fullness of the Gentiles’



*NKJ **Romans 11:25-26** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this **mystery**, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob. ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."*



Ephraim and Manasseh –

- Are adopted by Jacob
- Take on Israel's name (and come to represent that name)
- Are prophesied to 'fill up' the nations

Joseph –

- Becomes two of Israel's tribes
- Receives a double portion as firstborn (Deut. 21:17)
- Is both the father and brother of his children

Review -

1. God made a covenant with Abraham –
 1. Many descendants
 2. Noisy – would make an impact on the world
 3. Scattered, mixed within the nations
2. 12 tribes of Israel – not all Jews
 1. Birthright promises passed to Joseph
 2. Joseph's younger son would be the leader
3. YHVH is responsible for bringing this about



שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם

Shalom Alechim

Peace be Unto You