

Priesthood and once again reinstated the Melchizedek Priesthood. He made a way for Israel to return to the Melchizedek Covenant. He also initiated the process by which Ephraim could return from their exile in the Diaspora, be rejoined with their brother Judah, and come back into The Covenant with Yahovah. The time of the Levites was at an end. The presence of Yahovah left the Temple. The Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob spread out over the Earth to search for the lost sheep of Israel, hoping to find a dwelling place in the hearts of His scattered people.

The centralized Kingdom of Israel would soon disappear. In 70 A.D., after a lengthy siege of Jerusalem, an invading force under the command of the Romans breached the walls, massacred many of the inhabitants, and completely destroyed the Temple. Within a few decades only a small remnant of Judahites, or Jews, remained in the area. The remainder of those still living had been sold as slaves or had fled into the Diaspora.

But unlike their brother Ephraim, the Jews remembered that they were a unique people. The Jews kept many of the traditions given to them by Yahovah and added many more of their own. These unique traditions allowed them to remember who they were and to avoid being absorbed into the surrounding cultures. They never forgot where they came from or where they belonged. They always knew that one day they would return to their home. That day came for the Jews in 1948. Prophecy was fulfilled when the modern state of Israel was “born in one day.” (Isaiah 66:8) The House of Judah returned to their rightful home. The existence of the modern State of Israel is a sign that Yahovah is faithful to keep His promises. One day soon He will also fulfil His promise to the northern House of Israel. The ten lost tribes will come out of their captivity in an exodus that will eclipse the exodus from Egypt. (Jeremiah 16:14-15) They will remember who they are, they will come home, and they will be reunited with their brother Judah.

The Kingdom of Israel will be united under a good king as it hasn't been since king David sat on the throne. Yahshua will return as King and will reign from Jerusalem over all the lands of the Israelites, and through Israel, all the world will be blessed.



THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL
PRESENTED BY
THE HEBREW ROOTS CLUB AND
TESHUVAH MINISTRIES

HRC
HEBREW ROOTS CLUB
at Boise State University

The Story of Israel - An Overview

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Four thousand years ago a man named Abraham (Avraham) turned his back on the pagan gods of his father and followed the one true god, Yahovah Elohim, the creator of the world. Because he was faithful, Yahovah promised to give him a land and to make him the father of a great nation. They would be a nation of priests to Yahovah, the Melech Tzadik (King of Righteousness) or Melchizedek. Through this priestly nation, Yahovah promised to bless the whole world in a very special way. Yahovah guaranteed His promise to Abraham by making a covenant with him, the Melchizedek Covenant. Yahovah agreed to keep his promise and Abraham agreed to remain faithful and for his children to remain faithful after him. The type of covenant they made was called a blood covenant, which meant that

the parties who 'cut' the contract took responsibility for it with their own lives. Yahovah's promise was unconditional, but the covenant had a condition, faithfulness. Since Yahovah knew that Abraham's descendants might not remain faithful, it was determined that His own son, Yahshua, would take the 'death position' in place of Abraham. The Elohim of the universe had put their lives on the line in order to produce a covenant people.

Abraham's son Isaac (Yitzak) and Isaac's son Jacob (Yakov) both followed after Yahovah as Melchizedek Priests, taking their places in the covenant agreement of their father. Jacob's name was changed to Israel and his twelve sons became the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel. The names of the twelve sons of Israel that became the twelve tribes of Israel were: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph (who's descendants became the half-tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh) and finally, Benjamin.

One of Jacob's youngest sons, Joseph (Yosef), although not the first-born, was granted the priesthood portion of the birthright. He became the next Melchizedek Priest. Because he was elevated above his older brothers, they hated him and sold him to slave traders who took him away to the land of Egypt. There he was blessed by Yahovah and eventually became a prince in Egypt. His position allowed him to prepare the land for a great famine that had been foretold by Yahovah. When the famine came, many people from the surrounding countries came to Egypt for help and were blessed through the provision of a Melchizedek Priest. Joseph's family also came to get food. His brothers had repented of their actions and the whole family was reunited. The Pharaoh invited Jacob and his family to stay in the land of Egypt. They stayed for many generations and grew from being a household of about 70 to being a large people group known as the Hebrews or the Israelites. The Egyptian rulers became afraid of the Israelites and enslaved them as a means to control them and to control their numbers. The Israelites were blessed by Yahovah even though they were in slavery and could no longer carry out their function as Melchizedek Priests. Yahovah watched over them and caused their numbers to grow. The Israelites were

had been foreseen, they did not repent and return to Yahovah. They are still scattered among the nations. But Yahovah promised that although they had been scattered 'like grain from a sieve,' not one 'kernel' would be lost. (Amos 9:9) He promised to bring them back and with them, to bring a great harvest from among the nations. Incidentally, 2730 years from 722 B.C. brings us right to the present. This promise is being fulfilled during our time, as can be seen in the Messianic and Hebrew Roots movements. The story of the northern House of Israel is coming to its climax right now in our day.

The southern House of Judah fared a little better than their brother to the north. Judah was also unfaithful to the point that Yahovah sent them into captivity. In 586 B.C. they were invaded



by Nebucadnezzar, the king of Babylon. He carried the Judahites into captivity there. But, unlike their northern brother, they repented and Yahovah made a way for them to come back home 40 years later. The kingdom of Judah remained intact for almost another 700 years, although they were subject to the larger conquering powers that emerged in the ancient world such as the Persians, Greeks and Romans.

It was during the era of Roman rule (about two thousand years ago) that Yahshua came to satisfy the death requirement for the breaking of the covenant at Mt. Sinai, which he did in the year 28 A.D. His sacrifice was not accomplished as an act of the Levitical Priesthood, but of the Melchizedek Priesthood. After he died he rose again from the dead and returned to Heaven as the High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek. He ended the time of the Levitical

promised that all of Israel will be united again permanently under a good king at some time in the future.)

Although Yahovah Elohim had promised King David that one of his descendants would always sit on the throne, ten of the twelve tribes were taken away from the house of David in the year 930 B.C. Following Solomon's reign, the kingdom was divided by a civil war. Only two tribes remained for Solomon's son Rehoboam. He retained rulership over the southern portion of ancient Israel and the two tribes centered there, his own tribe of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin. The southern kingdom became known as the House of Judah. Its people became known as Judahites which was eventually shortened to "Jew." The Jews today are the descendants of the House of Judah, the southern kingdom of Israel. The remaining ten tribes and the larger northern portion of the land was given to Jeroboam, an Ephraimite. The northern kingdom became known as the House of Israel. (Sometimes referred to in The Bible as Ephraim.)

Both kingdoms were plagued with idolatry. They were vulnerable to the influences of the pagan nations surrounding them. There was always a remnant who remained faithful to Yahovah, but eventually both kingdoms would have to pay a price for their unfaithfulness. Yahovah finally said to the northern House of Israel, "If you insist on being like the pagan nations around you then I will scatter you among all the nations of the world and there you will have your fill of serving pagan gods." (Deuteronomy 4:27-28; Jeremiah 9:15-16 & 16:13) In a series of invasions centered around the year 722 B.C., the northern kingdom was taken into captivity by the Assyrians and scattered among the nations of the known world. This event became known as The Dispersion and the surrounding area into which the Israelites were dispersed became known as The Diaspora. Yahovah told the House of Israel (Ephraim) that they must remain in dispersion for 390 years. (Ezekiel 4:4-5) If they repented, they could come back home and be reunited with their brother Judah. But if not, then he would be avenged on them sevenfold—meaning that their dispersion would be 2730 years instead of 390. (Leviticus 26:18) During that time He promised that they would become lost among the nations and forget who they were. They would no longer be a people. As

in Egypt for 400 years. Their numbers grew to be over a million. Yahovah did not forget them, or His promise to their father, Abraham. Once again, Yahovah raised up a Hebrew prince in Egypt. His name was Moses (Moshe of the tribe of Levi.) Yahovah used him to set the Israelites free by bringing the ten plagues upon Egypt.

The Israelites traveled en masse from Egypt to Canaan. They were first led by Yahovah out of Egypt to the South East, across the Red Sea (Yom Suph) at the Gulf of Aqaba and into the land of Midian, which is now the northwestern corner of Saudi Arabia. There he brought them to the base of a mountain called Mt. Sinai or Mt. Horeb (today known as Jabal al Laws or simply, Jabal Musa – The Mountain of Moses.) There at the mountain Yahovah invited Israel, as a nation, to take their place in the covenant he had made with their father Abraham. The people agreed and the Melchizedek Covenant was reactivated. But, as perhaps Yahovah had foreseen, the people did not remain faithful. They recreated one of the pagan gods of



Egypt (Aphis) in the form of a golden calf. They turned their hearts toward it and away from Yahovah. The covenant was broken and the death position was enacted. Yahshua was effectively sentenced to die.

Even so, Yahovah remembered His unconditional promise to Abraham and did not turn His back on Israel. Instead, He made a provision for the people so that He could remain with them until the time when Yahshua's sentence would be carried out. He instituted the Levitical Priesthood. Yahovah appointed priests from the tribe of Levi to perform a set of sacrifices and rituals that would cover

the people so that they would not be destroyed by the presence of Yahovah. Instead of being a nation of priests, Israel became a nation with priests. Through the work of the Levitical Priesthood, Yahovah hoped to heal the people of their unfaithfulness and to teach them to follow after Him as their father Abraham had followed before. The rituals performed by the priests also contained a covert revelation of the plan that Elohim had formed to restore Israel to the Melchizedek Priesthood. Every year, in a series of appointed Feast days, the people would actively rehearse the events that would transpire at the coming of the Messiah.

The Israelites remained in the land of Midian for 40 years. Yahovah lived with them during this time in a special dwelling called the Tabernacle. It was a temporary structure which the people could carry with them and erect every time they set up their camp. At the end of the forty years Moses died and was succeeded by Joshua (Yoshua of the tribe of Ephraim) as the leader of the Israelites. Through Joshua, Yahovah led the Israelites the rest of the way to the Promised Land, the land of Canaan. It was called the Promised Land because Yahovah had promised Abraham that He would give the land to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And indeed, each of the twelve tribes was given their own allotment of the land. It was divided into twelve regions in which each tribe remained centered throughout their generations. The Israelite kingdom was centered where the modern state of Israel is now located but covered a larger geographic area. At its height, the Kingdom of Israel also had fleets in both the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, as well as extensive trade routes that reached into countries far north of the Mediterranean, south into Africa, and east into India and possibly as far as China.

After being in the Land for about 350 years, Israel appointed their first king, King Saul (Shaul of the tribe of Benjamin.) Yahovah never wanted the Israelites to have a king; He always wanted to be their king and to lead them firsthand. But they were influenced by the surrounding nations and demanded a king, so Yahovah relented and chose one for them. King Saul ultimately proved to be unfaithful to Yahovah and so the throne was taken from him and his descendants

and given to David (Dahveed of the tribe of Judah.) Dahveed was the only king of Israel to remain faithful to Yahovah, and so Yahovah honored his promises to Dahveed just as He honored His promises to Abraham. He promised David (through the prophets Jacob and Ahijah) that “The sceptre will never depart from [the house of] Judah.” (Genesis 49:10; 1 Kings 11:36) One of his descendants would always have a throne and rule over Israelites.

David’s son Solomon was the next king of Israel and was also given the honor of building a permanent home for Yahovah. The



Temple of Yahovah was built in Jerusalem (Yerushalayim,) the Holy City established on a mountain that Yahovah himself had chosen during the time of Abraham, Mount Moriah. Over 2000 years before the Dome of the Rock was built on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Solomon’s temple was built as a permanent dwelling for the God (Elohim) of Israel. For over a thousand years, a temple to Yahovah stood at this location (from 960 B.C. - 70 A.D. Some calendars use the designations “B.C.E.” and “C.E.”) But sadly, the Israelite nation did not remain faithful and as a result, was not allowed to remain and flourish in the Promised Land. King Solomon, the third king of Israel and the builder of the first temple, did not remain faithful. He took many wives from the surrounding nations and was given over to the pagan influences surrounding him. As a result, the kingdom was divided, never to be united again under one king. (Although it is