

STUDY PACK 8 & 9

MODERN CULTS British Israelism and Christian Identity

A survey of *Scriptural Prophecies*, which by their fulfillment, disclose astounding phenomena of supernatural design. This book contains facts from beneath the surface of our nation's history, which distinctly fingerprint God's chosen people, proving convincingly that Great Britain and the United States of America are the modern Israel of God, and as such, heirs of special divine Covenants."

~~ Charles Benham ~~

I. WHAT IS BRITISH-ISRAELISM OR "CHRISTIAN IDENTITY?"

In Josh McDowell's *Handbook of Today's Religions*, Anglo-Israelism – another term for British Israelism and a key doctrine in the "Christian Identity" movement – is defined this way.

"Anglo-Israelism (British-Israelism) _____, which were supposedly lost, _____. These nations, particularly the U.S. and Great Britain, and the events affecting them are seen as being the fulfillment of all Bible prophecy concerning Israel."

In the *Messianic Legacy*, French author Michael Baigent (mistakenly identifying American fundamentalism as British Israelism) defines British Israelism this way:

"The first of these is that the United States and the United Kingdom today are to be identified – sometimes symbolically but more often quite literally – with the scattered "remnants" of ancient Israel. Modern Judaism is believed to derive from the biblical Tribe of Judah, but the descendants of the remaining tribes are deemed to be the white Anglo-Saxon Protestants of Britain and America – and their kindred abroad, in places such as South Africa. These are the new "elect," the new "chosen people."

The distinctive ideas of British Israelism are represented in the following statements from a pamphlet entitled, *Doctrinal Statement of Beliefs* put out by an organization called Kingdom Identity Ministries.

"We believe God chose unto Himself a special race of people that are above all people upon the face of the earth (Deuteronomy 7:6; Amos 3:2). These children of Abraham through the called-out seed line of Isaac and Jacob (Psalms 105:6; Romans 9:7) were to be a blessing to all the families of the earth who bless them and a cursing to those that curse them (Genesis 12:3). The descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob, called "Israel" were married to God (Isaiah 54:5), have not

been cast away (Romans 11:1-2), have been given the adoption, glory, covenants, law, service of God, and promises; are the ones to whom the Messiah came

(Romans 9:4-5) electing out of all twelve tribes those who inherit the Kingdom of God (Revelation 7:4; 21:12).

We believe that the New Covenant was made with the children of Israel, the same people the Old Covenant was made with (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10) in fulfillment of the mercy promised our forefathers (Luke 1:72).

Only this race fulfills every detail of Biblical Prophecy and World History concerning Israel and continues in these latter days to be heirs and possessors of the covenants. Prophecies, Promises and Blessing YHVH God made to Israel. This chosen seedline making up the “Christian Nations:” (Genesis 35:11; Isaiah 62:2; Acts 11:26) of the earth stands far superior to all other peoples in their call as God’s servant race (Isaiah 41:8; 44:21; Luke 1:54). Only these descendants of the 12 tribes of Israel scattered abroad (James 1:1; Deuteronomy 4:27; Jeremiah 31:10; John 11:52) have carried God’s Word, the Bible, throughout the world (Genesis 28:14; Isaiah 43:10-12, 59:21), have used His laws in the establishment of their civil governments and are the “Christians” opposed by the Satanic Antichrist forces of this world who do not recognize the true and living God (John 5:22-23, 8:19, 16:2-3).

We believe in an existing being known as the Devil or Satan and called the Serpent (Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9); who has a literal “seed” or posterity in the earth (Genesis 3:15) commonly called Jews today (Revelation 2:9, 3:9; Isaiah 65:15). These children of Satan (John 8:44-47; Matthew 13:38; John 8:23) through Cain (I John 3:12), are a race of vipers (Matthew 23:31-33), anti-Christ (I John 2:22, 4:3) who have throughout history always been a curse to true Israel, the Children of God, because of a natural enmity between the two races (Genesis 3:15), because they do the works of their father the Devil (John 8:38-44), and because they pleased not God, and are contrary to all men (I Thessalonians 2:14-15), though they often pose as ministers of righteousness (II Corinthians 11:13-15). The ultimate end of this evil race whose hands bear the blood of our Savior (Matthew 27:25) and all the righteous slain upon the face of the earth (Matthew 27:35), is Divine judgment (Matthew 13:38-42, 15”13; Zechariah 14:21).

We believe that the man Adam (a Hebrew word meaning: ruddy, to show blood, flush, turn rosy) is father of the White Race only. As a son of God (Luke 3:38), made in His likeness (Genesis 5:1), Adam and his descendants, who are also the children of God (Psalm 82:6; Hosea 1:10; Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6; I John 3:1-2), can know YHVH God as their Father, not merely as their creator. Adamic man is made trichotomous, that is, not only of body and soul, but having an implanted spirit (Genesis 2:7; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12) giving him a

higher form of consciousness and distinguishing him from all the other races of the earth (Deuteronomy 7:6, 10:15; Amos 3:2).

We believe that as a chosen race, elected by God (Deuteronomy 7:6, 10:15; I Peter 2:9), we are not to be partakers of the wickedness of this world system (I John 2:15; James 4:4; John 17:9, 15, 16), but are called to come out and be a separated people (II Corinthians 6:17; Revelation 18:4; Jeremiah 51:6; Exodus 33:16; Leviticus 20:24). This includes segregation from all non-white races, who are prohibited in God's natural divine order from ruling over Israel (Deuteronomy 17:15, 28:13, 32:8; Joel 2:17; Isaiah 13:14; Genesis 1:25-26; Romans 9:21). Race-mixing is an abomination in the sight of Almighty God, a satanic attempt meant to destroy the chosen seedline, and is strictly forbidden by His commandments (Exodus 34:14-16; Numbers 25:1-13; I Corinthians 10:8; Revelation 2:14; Deuteronomy 7:3-4; Joshua 23:12-13; I Kings 11:1-3; Ezra 9:2, 10-12, 10:10-14; Nehemiah 10:28-30, 13:3, 27; Hosea 5:7; Malachi 2:11-12)."

The Anglo-Saxon Federation of America describes its organization, purpose, and doctrine this way (Destiny Publishers' pamphlet entitled, *Anglo-Saxon Federation of America*):

"The Anglo-Saxon Federation of America is a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political organization established for the purpose of propagating the Gospel of the Kingdom as it is presented in the Scriptures. Special emphasis is placed on the identification of the _____ and kindred nations with the Israel of God in the world today, while defending the authenticity and accuracy of the whole Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. We are a membership organization, inviting all who join with us to have their names on the national membership roll. The objectives of association are as follows:

1. To make known to the sons of men God's mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His Kingdom (Psalm 145:12).
2. To teach Christianity in the light of Israel truth and to recognize the importance of expounding the Holy Scriptures.
3. To proclaim the truth regarding the origin and early history of the _____, the _____, whether within the English speaking countries or elsewhere; and to prove their identity with Israel.
4. To show that God Almighty has placed upon the before-mentioned peoples an unchanging and irrevocable charge and responsibility, in that they are called to act as His servants and His instruments in preparing the way for the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. To show that the only solution to the world's unrest and distress is to be found in the Divinely-given Constitution, and that this restoration is a necessary preliminary to disarmament,

universal peace, and to all the manifold blessing of the reign of Christ.

5. To establish as a fact that the said belief is supported and confirmed by the Holy Scriptures and in particular by the prophetic portions thereof and by historical events.
6. To coordinate and strengthen the work of believers in the Israel truth.
7. To promote unity of thought and action in the proclamation of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God throughout the Anglo-Saxon world.”

II. BASIC SOURCES OF BRITISH-ISRAEL TEACHING

There appear to be four major sources of British-Israel teaching in the United States today.

A. Early Writings.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, a number of Bible teachers in England and the United States published books concerning this teaching. Such books include:

- *Our Israelitish Origin and The Millennium* by John Wilson, (published in England in the 1840s);
- *The English Nation Identified with the Lost House of Israel by Twenty-Seven Identifications* by Edward Hine, (England, 1870);
- A series of books by Howard Rand published in the United States; and
- *Judah's Sceptre and Joseph's Birthright* by J. H. Allen.

These books still circulate and influence churches, teachers, and individuals today.

B. Herbert W. Armstrong and the “Worldwide Church of God.”

For years, the major source of British-Israel teachings was Herbert W. Armstrong's “Worldwide Church of God.” Founded in 1934, this church combined doctrines from Seventh Day Adventism, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and British Israelism. In fact Armstrong's book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, is the most widespread book on British Israelite Doctrine. In reality, the book is largely plagiarized from Allen's *Judah's Sceptre and Joseph's Birthright*.

From the 1950s through the 1980s the Worldwide Church of God was a growing organization built largely by radio broadcasts.

After Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986, the Worldwide Church of God seems to have made astonishing changes in doctrine (adopting orthodox positions on everything from the nature of God, to the Trinity and personal salvation) and the church has officially renounced the British Israelite position.

C. The Christian Identity Movement.

The third source of British Israelism is the Christian Identity movement. The Christian Identity movement adopts British Israelite doctrine and combines it with a political agenda. This political agenda is largely based on a view of the role of the white race in American society. Some are "white separatists," who believe that the races should develop separately. Some are "white supremacists," who believe that white people are destined by God to rule.

D. Openly Racist Groups.

A fourth source of British-Israel teaching includes openly racist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party. These groups have been around for a long time, but have been marginal in their influence. Looking for respectability, many in the Klan and the Nazis have recently attached themselves to British-Israel doctrine and organizations.

III. BRITISH ISRAELISM'S APPROACH TO GOD'S WORD

Virtually any British-Israelite teacher will openly claim to believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture. However, it is routine to see them base their doctrine on "corrections" of the King James Bible.

British-Israelite teachers often use the "Fenton Bible." According to H.S. Miller, this translation was published in 1900. It was the work of a Bible teacher named Ferrar Fenton. The introduction states, "The New Testament is newly translated directly from the accurate text of Westcott and Hort." It is easy to see why British-Israelite teachers use this obscure translation. Many important passages are translated in such a way as to reinforce British Israelite doctrine.

It is often common for British Israelite teachers to give their own paraphrases of important passages – paraphrases that prove their doctrine. In fact, in his, *A Kingdom Commentary on Romans*, Dr. Everett Ramsey begins each chapter with the King James text, the Fenton translation, and his own Ramsey paraphrase. Even a casual glance demonstrates that you can prove Christian Identity doctrine from the Ramsey paraphrase, but not the King James Bible.

This approach to the word of God is fraught with problems. With private translations, based upon doctrinal guidelines rather than textual studies, you can end up proving anything. II Peter 1:20-21 declares, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were moved* by the Holy Ghost.”

IV. SOME BASIC DOCTRINES OF BRITISH ISRAELISM

The following ten statements briefly summarize the basic doctrines of British Israelism.

- At the time of the Divided Monarchy, the House of Israel (the ten northern tribes) and the House of Judah (Judah, Levi, and Benjamin) were permanently divided, and they have never been reunited.
- The northern ten tribes were destined to become many nations maintaining covenant blessings from God.
- Britain is _____, and the United States is _____.
- The promises made to Israel are now being fulfilled with _____, _____, and other _____.
- The terms *Israel*, *Judah*, *Jews*, *the House of Israel*, and *House of Judah* have different and distinct meanings and are never used inter-changeably.
- It is improper to use the term *Israel* to refer to those known as Jews in the Twentieth Century.
- The returning exiles from Babylon were Jews only – but not representative of Israel.
- Christ is going to return to an already existing throne.
- The tribes of Israel were to be punished for 2,520 years, and then undergo great blessing.
- The Abrahamic Covenant promises only national and racial blessings to physical Israel.

V. DISTINCTIVE HISTORICAL ASSERTIONS OF BRITISH ISRAELISM

It can be demonstrated that the Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, Germanic, Scandinavian, and related people are the lost ten tribes of Israel.

The royal family of England is the legal heir of David’s throne.

King Zedekiah's daughter, Tea Tephi, together with Jeremiah and Baruch ended up in Ireland. There she married into the royal family of Ireland.

The Coronation Stone of England is the original Jacob's Pillow (the stone at Bethel).

The present people known as Jews, the Samaritans, are a mixture of the Khazar tribe and descendants of Esau and Edom. Some would acknowledge that there are some true descendants of Judah among the current people known as Jews.

The Druids were actually Christians.

Christianity was established in the British Isles by Paul the Apostle and Joseph of Arimathea.

VI. OTHER DISTINCTIVE IDEAS OF BRITISH ISRAELITE TEACHERS

The great Pyramid of Egypt is a Christian monument full of prophetic and scientific information.

The Great Flood described in the book of Genesis was a local flood.

The Biblical term *Gentiles* usually or always refers to the lost tribes of Israel.

Some accept certain books of the Apocrypha as Scripture.

There are _____ still alive in the world today.

Some teachers maintain that there are groups in the world today that are physical descendants of co-habitation between Satan and Eve. Most of these teachers teach that these "Satanic offspring" are today called Jews.

VII. THERE ARE NO LOST TRIBES

The Scriptures plainly declare that the captives who returned to Palestine under Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, represent the entire nation of Israel. They are called *the people of Israel* (Ezra 2:2, 9:1; Nehemiah 7:7, 73, 8:17); _____ (Ezra 2:70, 8:25, 10:5); and _____ (Ezra 3:1, 6:21; Nehemiah 2:10, 8:17). The land and the nation are called Israel (Ezra 7:10, 10:1, 2, 10; Nehemiah 7:61, 10:33, 11:30).

Some would wonder how the returning captives could be said to represent the entire twelve tribes. The leadership of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin were the leaders (along with the Levites) of the return from Exile (see Ezra 1:5). In reality, members of the northern ten tribes had been united with Judah during the entire time of the Divided Monarchy.

Cyrus had offered the chance to return to Jerusalem to all of God's people. The leaders of Judah and Benjamin led the return, but it included all those "raised up by the Spirit of God" (Ezra 1:1-5).

From the beginning of the separation of the two kingdoms, the godly were appalled at the paganism of the northern ten tribes and kept moving to the Southern Kingdom. There were representatives of Ephraim and Manasseh who dwelt in Jerusalem (I Chronicles 9:3). These Israelites, including representatives of the birthright tribe, Ephraim, identified with the Southern Kingdom (I Kings 12:17). The Lord recognized that many of Israel were in Judah and Benjamin (II Chronicles 11:3).

The priests and Levites that were originally spread among all 12 tribes moved to the Southern Kingdom after opposing Jeroboam's apostasy (II Chronicles 11:13-15). As a result, _____ – out of all of the tribes – _____ and strengthened _____ (II Chronicles 11:16-17).

During the reign of godly King Asa, many of the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon came to the Southern Kingdom because they saw that God's hand was on Asa (II Chronicles 15:8-9).

By the time of good King Jehosaphat, the "chief of the fathers of Israel" were identified with and operating out of Jerusalem (II Chronicles 19:8). During the time of Hezekiah, reference is made to both the children of Israel and Judah dwelling in the cities of Judah (II Chronicles 31:5). During the time of Josiah, long after the northern ten tribes had been taken captive, reference is made of the "children of Israel that were present" keeping the Passover (II Chronicles 35:17).

The Northern Kingdom constantly decreased as the Southern Kingdom increased. This was primarily a result of the godly leaving the Northern Kingdom to identify with the Southern Kingdom. Originally, the Northern Kingdom could field an army of 800,000 (II Chronicles 13:3) but by Ahab's time it was called "two little flocks of kids" (I Kings 20:27).

The forces of the Southern Kingdom constantly grew:

- 180,000 under Rheoboam (I Kings 12:21);
- 400,000 under Abijah (II Chronicles 13:3);
- 580,000 under Asa (II Chronicles 14:8);
- 1,160,000 under Jehosaphat (II Chronicles 17:13-19).

When the Southern Kingdom went into captivity, it contained representatives _____. When it returned to Palestine, it represented all 12 tribes.

After the Northern Kingdom is carried away and dispersed, the Southern Kingdom is called Israel (II Chronicles 31:1-6, 8, 20; 34:6-7, 9, 33; 35:3, 17-18, 25).

At the time of Christ, Anna the prophetess, was clearly identified as being of the tribe of Ashur (Luke 2:36). Nathaniel was plainly called an Israelite (John 1:47).

When Jesus preached in Galilee, He was declared to be “in the borders of Zebulon and Nephthalim.” It was declared that this fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 9:1-3 that light would be brought to Naphtali and Zebulon (Matthew 4:12-16).

When James wrote to the Jewish believers who had scattered after persecution (Acts 8:1, 4), he addressed them as “the twelve tribes scattered abroad” (James 1:1-2).

Paul called his nation “our twelve tribes” in Acts 26:7.

John the Baptist was sent to Israel (Malachi 1:1, 3:1). He went to the Jews in Judea (Matthew 3:1-5; John 1:19). He turned “many of the children of Israel to God” (Luke 1:16), but the Jews were the only ones to whom he preached.

Christ called the cities of Judah the “cities of Israel” (Matthew 10:23).

Nicodemus is called a ruler of the Jews, but Christ called him a master of Israel (John 3:1, 10). In these and many other passages Christ clearly uses Jews and Israel interchangeably.

Matthew calls the Jewish leaders who murdered Christ the children of Israel (Matthew 27:9; 28:15). The Book of Acts calls the same men: “men of Israel.” “elders of Israel,” and “all the people of Israel” (Acts 2:22, 36; 3:12; 4:8-10; 5:21).

Paul clearly and repeatedly used “Jews,” “men of Israel” and “Israel” interchangeably (Acts 13:5, 16-17; 28:17-20; Romans 1:16; 2:9-10, 17, 28-29; 3:1, 9, 29; 9:24; 10:1-12; 11:1-29; I Corinthians 10:18, and many others). In fact, it is so clear that Paul used these terms interchangeably that one prominent British-Israel teacher admits this but claims that Paul was wrong when he used these terms this way. Everett Ramsey writes this about Paul in, *A Kingdom Commentary on Romans*:

“On the other hand, he still accepted the Jewish teaching about the history of the house of Israel and the house of Judah, namely that the Jews now compose both houses, which is _____ and _____. This same lie and false teaching have been picked up by every commentator since, except some who receive no verified acclaim, in recent years. This false teaching has led to the current backwash of futuristic eschatology and emphasis on the false gospel of personal salvation, well-being, and escapism.

This has allowed the enemies of Christ to gain control of the property, persons, and minds of the people of God and neutralize what otherwise would be a powerful force for the righteousness in this world.

The emphasis for the Christian today is not righteousness and the law of God in society and real life, but rather the delusion in a false hope of rapture.”

Each of the distinctive British Israelite doctrines can be refuted from Scripture. However, their basic assumptions cannot be proven, and, in fact, are disproven. There are no grounds for attempting to interpret the Scriptures this way in the first place.

The verdict of Scripture is clear and plain. The 260-year distinction between the Kingdom of Judah and the Kingdom of Israel ended when Assyria carried away the Northern Ten Tribes into captivity. The captives no longer maintained a distinct political identity. Segments of all 12 tribes were now represented in Judah. Sometimes the nation is referred to by the name of the royal tribe, Judah, but just as often it is called by the national name, Israel.

British Israelite teaching about the Abrahamic Covenant also deserves special mention. Many grant that the New Testament commentary on the Abrahamic Covenant appears to support the evangelical and dispensational interpretation.

David Barley commenting on Galatians 3:7 writes:

“At this point the advocates of the spiritual Israel position emphasize the words ‘... they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.’ This passage seems to establish their argument and make clear for all to see that if a person believes in Jesus Christ and accepts Him is a child of Abraham. This argument appears highly convincing; however ...”

But Galatians 3 more than “seems” to teach that the Abrahamic Covenant points to salvation by faith in Christ. It plainly declares it, unless you subject the Scripture to the definitions of British Israelism.

VIII. THE BRITISH ISRAELITES’ APPROACH TO HISTORY

The most significant thing to note about the British Israelite interpretation of history is how they base doctrine on their understanding of historical events. According to even the most serious and devout British Israelite teachers, you just cannot understand basic Bible doctrine without a _____.

If you only had your Bible, and no history lesson at their feet, you would never know that God’s chosen people were the “Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian, Germanic and kindred people (David Barley).

For these teachers, the Bible is not the sole authority for doctrine (II Timothy 3:16-17). For people committed to the Bible as their only source of doctrine, British Israelism can have no long-term appeal. Unless you are willing to subject the Bible to their “filter of historical research,” you cannot possibly arrive at their doctrine.

British Israelite teachers sift through a mass of historical information, legends, and vague references, then pick out a few quotes and references that seem to prove their theories. They often react in shock that not everyone treats their results with the same overwhelming devotion and enthusiasm they do. Rarely do they footnote their material –

they seem to expect people to simply take the word of their “enlightened teachers.” Some of their most often-quoted references can be traced (with great difficulty); others seem very difficult – or even impossible – to find.

The question of what did happen to the remnants of the Northern Kingdom is an interesting one. According to Jewish historian Josephus (*Josephus – Complete Works*):

“When Esdras had received this epistle, he was very joyful, and began to worship God, and confessed that he had been the cause of the King’s great favor to him, and that for the same reason he gave all the thanks to God. So he read the epistle at Babylon to those Jews that were there; but he kept the epistle itself, and sent a copy of it to all those of his own nation that were in Media; and when these Jews had understood what piety the king had towards God, and what kindness he had for Esdras they were all greatly pleased; nay, many of them took their effects with them, and came to Babylon, as very desirous of going down to Jerusalem; but then the entire body of the people of Israel remained in that country; wherefore there are but two tribes in Asia and Europe subject to the Romans, while the ten tribes are beyond Euphrates till now; and are in immense multitude, and not to be estimated by numbers.”

British Israelites are fond of quoting Josephus – especially his statement about only two tribes returning to Palestine. However, that is contrary to the clear teaching of Scripture, and the Bible’s accuracy rate is much better than that of Josephus. It is interesting to note one thing about Josephus that these teachers do not quote: He used Israel and Jews interchangeably.

Throughout the last 2000 years many groups have been identified as being descended from one or more of the ten tribes. The people of India, Japan, American Indians, and the Slavic people can claim ancient references identifying them as the “lost ten tribes.” Others have identified them as going to the Continent of Atlantis – a continent that is now as lost as the remnant of the ten tribes.

The teacher of British Israelism is correct in asserting that there are many references stating that the European tribes are descended from remnants of the tribes of the Northern Kingdom. Virtually all European nations have legends to this effect, and these legends are repeated in many books and publications produced by British Israelites. The British Israelites did not invent these legends; they have clearly been around for centuries. However, every tribe also has other legends regarding their origins.

Michael Baigent in *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* reports that the Merovingian family claim to be from the tribe of Judah, in fact from the royal family of David and that the Goths were often called Jews.

In both of these claims, these Europeans claimed to be descended from Jews who left Palestine after the Jewish Dispersion in A.D. 70.

It may be that the tribes that settled in Europe have some traces of the remnants of the Northern Kingdom. The descendants of these people have to be somewhere. This certainly does not make them the official representatives of the nation of Israel.

British Israelite teachers did not invent the idea that the Coronation Stone of England is the original Jacob's Pillow. This legend has been around for a longtime. It is told on official tours of Westminster Abbey. However, there are a number of other "official" legends explained on the same tour that are inconsistent with British Israelism.

The legend of Jeremiah's traveling from Egypt (see Jeremiah 43:1-7) to Ireland with Zedekiah's daughters is told in both Egypt and Ireland, but it has never been verified or widely believed in either country (even though J. H. Allen calls it a "well-authenticated fact" (*Judah's Sceptre and Joseph's Birthright*)). In this same work, Allen traces the heritage of Queen Victoria from Adam through King Zedekiah (as explained in Scripture), through 83 Kings of Ireland, to 37 Kings of Argyleshire, through 25 Kings of Scotland, to King James I, and on to Queen Victoria. A few sections of these Royal lineages are recognized in English history. Most are unknown outside of British Israel teaching and are not recognized by the British royal family. Allen's source for such amazing revelation are Rev. Glover and Rev. Grimaldi – two British Israel Bible teachers. Grimaldi supposedly compiled this list from several "reliable works of reference." Three sources are named, but most are referred to as "other." This hardly constitutes a sound historical basis for re-writing accepted history. To read many British Israel works you would assume that the Royal family acknowledges this heritage and that it is widely believed in Europe. Neither is true.

Another important assertion is that the modern people called Jews are really the Khazar tribe from Turkey. Max Dimont, who wrote, *Jews, God, and History*, describes the connection between the Jews and Khazars this way:

"In the year 740 a Tartaric people living in the kingdom of Khazar on the western shore of the Caspian Sea between the Volga and the Don rivers, speaking Greek, and practicing a religious blend of Christianity and paganism in equal parts, were converted to Judaism under the vigorous promptings of their King Bulan. The fact that the Tartars now professed Judaism in no way changed their Tartaric habits or nature. They remained the dreaded warriors of the steppes, feared equally by Persians, Byzantines, and the dukes of Kiev, who annually had to reaffirm their friendship with huge tributes.

The power and influence of the Khazars lasted for 250 years, until, finally, the permutation of events brought forth a weak king in Khazar and a strong duke in Kiev. In 969 Duke Sviatoslav defeated the Khazars and incorporated their territory into the new Russian state he was founding. His mother, Princess Olga, had twice been converted to Christianity – some scholars say this was to be sure it would take; other say it was to give her an excuse to make the journey twice to gay Constantinople – but as both she and her son considered Christianity the prerogative of nobles, the Russian muzhiks (peasants) remained pagan. Sviatoslav's successor, Vladimir, did not share this attitude, and he gave

Christianity to all the Russian people, for which a grateful Church bestowed sainthood upon him. And so it came about the former Jewish kingdom of Khazar became part of Mother Russia, and its people made the sign of the cross to the Russian Orthodox formula “Gospodi pomiloy” instead of bowing reverently to the Hebrew Shema Yisrael.”

Two books by Jewish authors acknowledge that the Khazars became a prominent part of the Jewish people, *The Thirteenth Tribe* by Arthur Koestler and *The Tribes* by Yair Davidi. However, this does not make _____ . This should come as no surprise. Ruth became a Jew. Rahab became a Jew. Many in Babylon became Jews (Esther 8:16). The Old Testament made provision for Gentiles to become part of the congregation of Israel (Leviticus 19:33-34).

According to Josephus and others, the people of Idumea became Jews. This does not change the identification of the Jewish people.

British Israel teachers are forced to assert that the Druids of Ancient Britain were really Christians. One example of such teaching is found in Sheldon Emery’s book, *Paul and Joseph of Arimathea, Missionaries to the Gentiles*, published by America’s Promise Ministries. Because they teach that no group of white men have ever been savages, they are forced to twist the religious teachings of the Druids into Christian teaching. However, this contradicts the extensive writings of the Druids themselves, as well as the detailed, documented conclusions of secular scholars like James Fraser (*The Golden Bough*) and Christian scholars like Alexander Hislop (*The Two Babylons*). This is simply an invention of necessity.

British Israelite teachers teach that Paul and Joseph of Arimathea ministered in Britain. This is again based on old English legends – legends picked out from a myriad of British legends. Yet these teachers treat these legends as established fact and base doctrine upon them.

IV. PYRAMIDOLOGY

A belief common to most teachers of British Israelism is Pyramidology. Many books and pamphlets have been written on Pyramidology, but the most famous and influential is the four-volume set entitled *Pyramidology* by Adam Rutherford. Rutherford gives the following definition:

“Pyramidology is the science which co-ordinates, combines and unifies science and religion, and is thus the meeting place of the two. When the Great Pyramid is properly understood and universally studied, false religious and erroneous scientific theories will all vanish, and true religion and true science will be demonstrated to be harmonious.”

Rutherford spends four volumes explaining scientific knowledge hidden in the measurements of the Great Pyramid and projecting prophecies from these measurements (including the return of Christ in 1979).

“In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD. And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.”

Pyramidologists believe that this passage should not have been in the future tense and that the altar and pillar mentioned are the Great Pyramid.

The teachers of British Israelism are not the only promoters of Pyramidology. Charles T. Russell, the founder of the Jehovah’s Witness cult, wrote extensively about the Great Pyramid as have a number of occult and New Age teachers.

There are even a small number of evangelical Bible teachers who believe that the Great Pyramid is the fulfillment of Isaiah 19:19-20 (though they do not use it to justify wild prophecies). For a full explanation of the evangelical version of Pyramidology, see chapter five of *Your Amazing Bible* by Dr. Herb Pugmire.

However, Isaiah 19:21 makes it clear that this prophecy refers to a yet future day when Egypt will honor the true God, “And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD and perform *it*.” Dispensationalists would clearly see this as a prophecy to be fulfilled in the Millennium.

Many sound Bible teachers have been clear in pointing out that a pyramid is neither an altar nor a pillar. For example, Dr. H. A. Ironside wrote in his book on Isaiah, “The Great Pyramid is not an altar nor is it a pillar. _____.” Dr. J. Vernon McGee, in Volume III of *Through The Bible with J. Vernon McGee*, writes, “An altar to the Lord has been interpreted by some of the cults as the pyramid. The pyramid is neither an altar nor a pillar but a monstrous mausoleum for the burying of kings and queens.”

X. RACE NOT GRACE

Some even describe the Negro race (in their minds a pre-Adamic race) as “the beasts of the field.” Consider this quote from a prominent British Israelite: “Many of our ancestors and many present-day Bible scholars believe the Negro to be the beast of the field and the beast referred to here (Leviticus 18:23).”

Because of this teaching, some British Israelite teachers conclude that salvation is limited to the real descendants of Adam. An example is found in British Israelite Peter J. Peter’s book, *Baal Worship*:

“By way of illustration, let me tell of an incident that happened on a flight that Pastor Weiland and I took in the fall of 1993. We sat down in a row that contained three seats. The plane was filling up, and we were hoping that no one would fill the third seat so that we could spread out our notes and have some room. However a family came down the aisle – a man and wife and two little children. The man took a seat across the aisle and up one row from us. He put the children in their seats, buckled them up, and sat down next to them. His wife came over and sat down next to me. As we were getting ready for takeoff, she said to me, “Excuse me, sir, I wonder if I could ask you to do me a favor?”

“What is that?” I responded. “I wonder if you would hold my hand, I am desperately afraid of airplanes.”

She began explaining to me about her fear, and I looked at Ted and her husband who heard her, and it was obvious that she was deathly afraid of airplanes. She said that it was all she could do to get on the plane, and that if I would just hold her hand on takeoff and landing, she would be so grateful.

I finally agreed because she was so petrified. As we prepared to take off, I reached over and took her hand, as she grasped on to mine. I said to her, “Look you have nothing to be afraid of, and let me tell you why. My friend and I have already prayed to the god the Bible, and everything is going to be fine. There is nothing to be fearful of.” She said, “would you pray for me, with me?” I said “Sure.”

Bowed our heads, and we prayed. I prayed that God would let her know that His hand of protection was on us. When the prayer was over, she looked at me and said, “Now would you say a prayer for me; I am Jewish.”

I bowed my head again and said, “Lord, let this woman know that Jesus Christ is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, and that He is sovereign. He is Omnipotent, Omniscient, and that He resurrected from the grave.” I included everything I could think of along those lines.

When I got her claw off my sweaty palms, and we were in the air, she began talking to me in all sincerity. She said she wished she could have the faith that I had. She said that she had read the Psalms but could not understand them, and all of a sudden, I knew that God had given me this example. _____, and she could not have the faith because she was not a child of our father, faithful Abraham. We are those children, and we are the only ones who can have the Kingdom _____.

XI. CONCLUSION

Part of the Abrahamic Covenant tied the national Identity of Israel with the rite of circumcision.

- Genesis 17:10, “This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.”
- Genesis 17:14, “And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.”

One lost his identity as an Israelite when he quit practicing the rite of circumcision. Even if it could be proven that the Anglo-Saxon peoples were descended from the Northern Tribes of Israel, it is clear that the Anglo-Saxon tribes had no tradition of circumcision. Being an Israelite was always something more than genetic. If the Anglo-Saxons were ever Israelites, _____.

Paul described himself as an Israelite and a Hebrew (II Corinthians 11:22). He called the old-time Israelites Jews (Romans 3:1). In I Corinthians 10:32 he described three classifications of people:

- the Jew,
- the Gentile, and
- the Church of God – composed of both redeemed Jews and Gentiles.

If the Scriptures are subjected to a pre-conceived system of interpretation, you can prove British Israelism – or any other doctrine. When the Scriptures are allowed to speak for themselves there is no room for British Israelism.

Undoubtedly British Israelism began with some sincere but mistaken Bible teachers. No doubt some of its followers today fit in the same category. Unfortunately, many seem to be attracted to these doctrines as a cover for unscriptural and ungodly racial attitudes. For them, British Israelism allows the flesh free reign. No longer do you need to get sinful attitudes right with God; you can justify your sin as a righteous stand for God.

Acts 10:43, “To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”