

The prophetic names of Israel and Judah

In the scriptures, the names Israel and Judah are prophetic names and are not currently one nation.

In [Genesis 32:28](#) Jacob wrestles with an angel at Peniel and the angel assigns him the name Israel.

- *And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. ([Gen 32:24-28](#))*

In the book of Ezekiel, the prophet discusses the future of the sons [tribes] of Israel and being re-united as one after their long past history as the separated ones from Solomon's sons kingdom and becoming the Northern tribes – also having become a part of Samaria. This division was the result of sibling rivalry between Rehoboam and Jeroboam, Solomon's sons. Jeroboam led 10 tribes apart from Judah and Benjamin to later become the Northern Kingdom. Judah and Benjamin were to become prophetically known as the 'Jews' of latter history, whereas, the Northern Kingdom's 10 tribes became known by the prophetic title of Israel.

Fast forward into the future, the prophet Ezekiel wrote about their reuniting.

- *The word of the **יהוה** 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: ([Ezek 37:15-16, AV](#))*

The prophetic name Israel is used quite extensively in the scriptures, but it is not always clearly understood to be about the Northern tribes [today's so called lost 10 tribes].

After revealing Haman's attempted coup of king Ahasuerus, Esther [a Benjamite ([Est 2:5](#))] was granted the house of Haman, it's territories and riches. It was the 23rd day of Sivan when the king published letters throughout the lands to proclaim this decision.

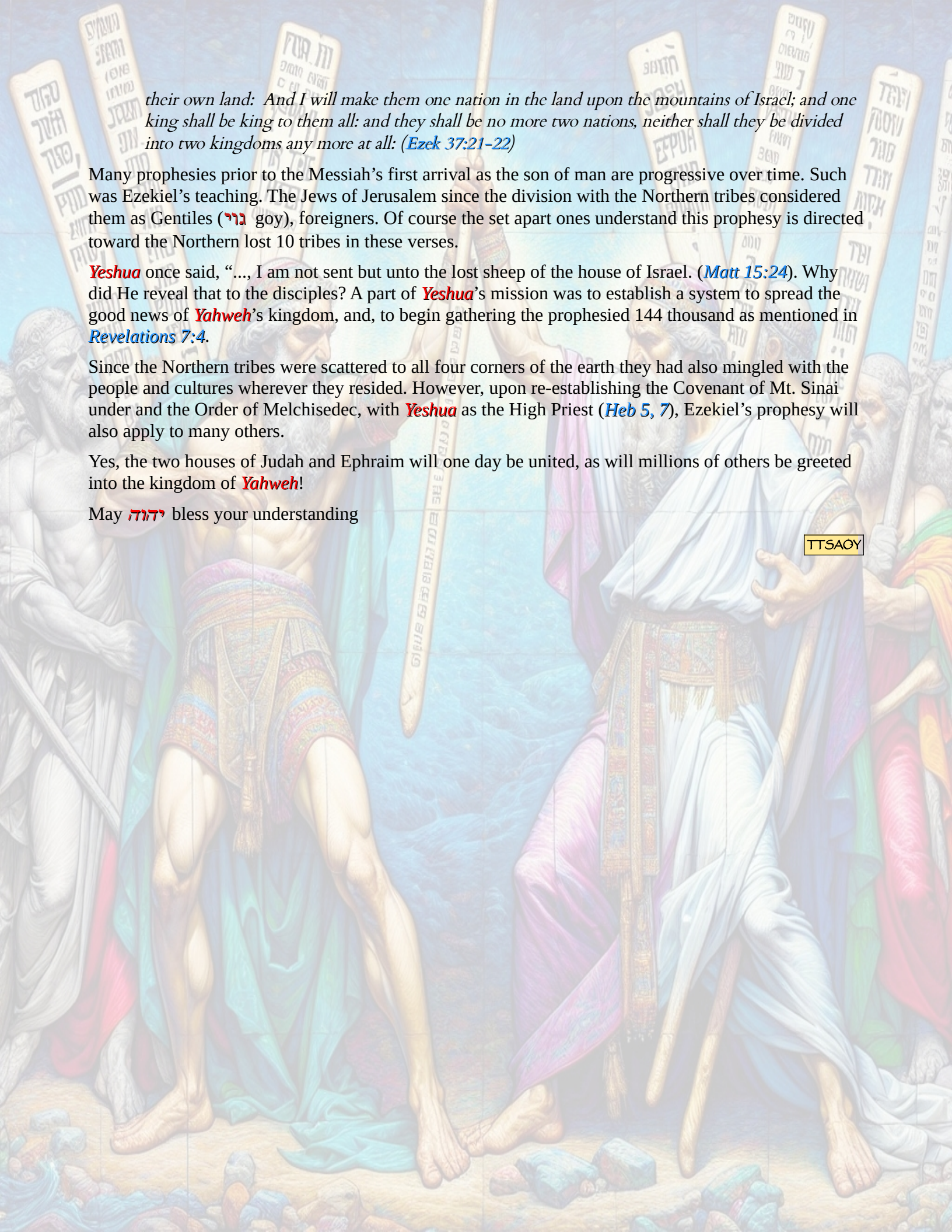
Ezekiel's Two Sticks

Prophecy can be a confusing matter for those who delve into the scriptures. In the original language from which the scriptures were written, the word prophecy simply means 'an inspired teaching' (**נבא** naba'). Ezekiel offered these inspired verses about the uniting of the lost tribes of Israel.

- *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. ([Ezek 37:16-17](#))*

Within the scriptures the title Jew(s) became a national identity upon the division of the Southern and Northern kingdoms ([2 Chron 10-11](#)). This title often confuses the reader when it may actually be referring to the nation of Jacob's descendants – all 12 tribes. The Southern kingdom called Judah remains the tribes of Judah and Benjamin – thereafter also referred to as 'Jews'. The Northern tribes: Reuben, Simeon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Manasseh, and Joseph (Ephraim & Manasseh), are prophetically referred to as Israel and/or Ephraim. Both the Jews and Ephraim are Hebrews by descent – sons of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- *And say unto them, Thus saith Sovereign **יהוה**; 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: (Ezek 37:21-22)

Many prophecies prior to the Messiah's first arrival as the son of man are progressive over time. Such was Ezekiel's teaching. The Jews of Jerusalem since the division with the Northern tribes considered them as Gentiles (גוי *goy*), foreigners. Of course the set apart ones understand this prophecy is directed toward the Northern lost 10 tribes in these verses.

Yeshua once said, "..., I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (**Matt 15:24**). Why did He reveal that to the disciples? A part of **Yeshua**'s mission was to establish a system to spread the good news of **Yahweh**'s kingdom, and, to begin gathering the prophesied 144 thousand as mentioned in **Revelations 7:4**.

Since the Northern tribes were scattered to all four corners of the earth they had also mingled with the people and cultures wherever they resided. However, upon re-establishing the Covenant of Mt. Sinai under and the Order of Melchisedec, with **Yeshua** as the High Priest (**Heb 5, 7**), Ezekiel's prophecy will also apply to many others.

Yes, the two houses of Judah and Ephraim will one day be united, as will millions of others be greeted into the kingdom of **Yahweh**!

May **יהוה** bless your understanding

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