

A New Look at End-Time

EPHRAIM!

Where is modern Ephraim, the leading tribe of the northern kingdom of ancient Israel, in the earth – today? What does Bible prophecy say about the identifying characteristics of this mighty tribe of Israel, the dominant tribe of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and their location in the earth, today, in the “End Time”? Let’s examine the evidence honestly, with an open sincere mind. The truth is awesome, and contains a great warning.

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Of all those who recognize that the lost ten tribes of Israel have been found in the modern world, and are primarily the peoples of the Anglo-Saxon Celtic race, found in western Europe, Great Britain, Ireland, the United States, Canada, and related peoples, why does almost everyone believe that the British Commonwealth is descended primarily from the tribe of Ephraim, and America is descended from Manasseh?

Of course, this idea was popularized by the British-Israel movement of the last century, and adopted by others who saw the evidence that indeed the tribes of the ancient northern kingdom of “Israel” were not lost, but the tribes migrated to Western Europe, and presented the evidence to the world.

Yet the truth about the identity of Ephraim was obscured, hidden from view, until these END TIMES! Ephraim can clearly be identified, if we are willing to look at all the evidence, without preconditions, bias, or obstructions in our view.

Who Is Ephraim?

Just who is Ephraim? In the pages of this magazine, we have proved before that Ephraim is none other than the United States of America (see the July-August 2001 issue). Yet there are many opponents of this revelation, who continue to insist that *they* are right, and that Ephraim is the United Kingdom, primarily England and Canada. Some of the “proofs” used to support this theory are almost comical (i.e., Manasseh was more “democratic,” and therefore America must be Manasseh, Ephraim had more “nobility,” and therefore England must be Ephraim, etc.). So, in this article, I want to simply go through the Scriptures, and point out the major characteristics of EPHRAIM in the Bible, and then compare the Biblical evidence with the nations on the earth, today, to ascertain who would be descended from this powerful ancient Biblical people!

In a companion article in this issue, I have related the incredible proof from the “emblems” and national symbols of Ephraim to prove that indeed, the United States of America possesses these ancient symbols, and this itself identifies America as Ephraim, the leading, “birthright” tribe of Joseph (compare Gen.48:14-20; I Chron.5:1). Joseph was given the birthright, but Ephraim was given the greatest blessing from Jacob, as he placed his right hand on him, and his left hand on his brother Manasseh. God says of Ephraim, in Jeremiah, “*Ephraim is My firstborn*” (Jer.31:9). What could be clearer?

The Fruitful Bough and Arrows

Jacob then blessed his sons, and said that Joseph would be “a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him. But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob” (Gen.49:22-24).

Before we go on, notice! Since Ephraim is the tribe Jacob blessed with the greatest blessings, as the “firstborn” of the firstborn, these promises would be doubly applicable to *him*,

not Manasseh. The fruitful olive branch is one of the primary national symbols and emblems of the *United States!* Secondly, the *United States* has as one of symbols in its national flag and seal *a bundle of arrows*. Thirdly, it is the United States which is the pre-eminent superpower among the world's nations, whose military prowess and might have been "made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob." Who among all the nations can compare with the United States in military might?

To be more precise – how does Great Britain compare? There is simply no comparison, and everybody knows it. Yes, Great Britain is a powerful and great country – but still, it does not compare with the blessings and power of America.

Moses' Prophecy

In the book of Deuteronomy, next, we find the words of Moses regarding Joseph in the last days. He declared, "His glory is like a firstborn bull, and his horns like the horns of a wild ox [or, unicorn]; together with them he shall push the peoples to the ends of the earth; they are the *ten thousands of Ephraim*, and the *thousands of Manasseh*" (Deut.33:17).

Believe it or not – as foolish as it may seem – I have seen educated men, authors of books on the subject, who have argued that this means Ephraim *ruled over more Gentile nations* than his brother Manasseh. But that's not what it says! The plain sense of the Scripture is that Ephraim would far outnumber Manasseh, in population and military might. It is amazing to me just how far people sometimes will go, in the vain imaginations of their hearts, to subvert and twist Scripture to support a cherished myth or personal theory!

Obviously, anybody can see that this Scripture is speaking of relative population, or relative size of the armies – troops – of Ephraim and Manasseh. Ephraim's military power would be much greater than that of Manasseh. Her population, also, would be much greater. That is the natural inference and plain teaching of this passage. To argue otherwise is simply to set a trap for unwary readers and deceive them. We ought to *tremble* before the Word of God, and not allow ourselves to be misled in our hearts because of previously cherished ideas which we have assumed to be true.

There can be no doubt that it has been the United States of America which has led the way in fighting oppression throughout modern times, providing millions of men and munitions to save the world's democracies from totalitarian dictatorships, from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, and most recently, the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan.

Ephraim – God's "Helmet"

God's Word suggests very strongly that Ephraim was to become a mighty military power. In the book of Psalms, God prophesied, "Gilead is Mine, Manasseh is Mine; *Ephraim also is the HELMET for My head*" (Psalm 108:8). "Ephraim is my helmet," says the New International Version. "Ephraim is the *strength* of my head," says the King James Version. The Hebrew word is *maoz* and literally means, "a fortified place, force, fortress, rock, strength, strong, defense, stronghold."

In Psalm 60:7, God says, "Ephraim also is the strength of my head" (KJV). The New King James has it, "Ephraim also is the *helmet* [lit., "protection"] for My head."

Again, notice that it is EPHRAIM whom God associates with military power, strength, compares to a fortress, and as being powerful in defense and as being a mighty stronghold – a SUPERPOWER! He even refers to Ephraim as being His own *helmet*, as a nation He uses to protect His "head" – His own government. As Judah is the tribe He uses for government ("the sceptre shall not depart from Judah" – Gen.49:10; I Chron.5:2), so it is that Ephraim is to be the protector of Judah. Today, Judah is primarily located in *Israel!* And which among the nations is the most loyal, faithful SUPPORTER of the state of Israel?

Another allusion to both the connection between Judah and Ephraim – the state of Israel and America – is found in the book of Zechariah. God says, "For I have bent Judah, My bow, fitted the bow with Ephraim, and raised up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and made you like the sword of a mighty man" (Zech.9:13). The Lord compares Judah to His bow, and Ephraim to His *arrows* (again, only the United States has a bundle of ARROWS in its national emblems!).

Now, if we look at the United States, and compare it with the United Kingdom, to see which would be more likely today to be God's "helmet," a nation He uses to protect and safeguard, would we choose Great Britain? Or the much more powerful United States? Think about it!

Why, there is no question or doubt – it is the *United States of America!* *Modern EPHRAIM!!*

Evidence from Hosea

But now let's look at the evidence from the prophet Hosea. Here is where this subject gets real interesting.

Hosea is a book of Biblical prophecy which is written for the "last days," the "end of days," the "time of the end." It is filled with prophecies referring to "Ephraim," "Israel," "Jacob," and "Judah." It shows Ephraim and Judah as being separate nations, and yet united together. It also reveals a great deal about their national characteristics.

Idolatry

The first time Ephraim is mentioned in Hosea, God says of her, "Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone. Their drink is rebellion, they commit harlotry continually" (Hos.4:17). Indeed, our nation is FILLED with idols – from automobiles, Hollywood actors and actresses, "movie idols," rock-and-roll idols, music idols, images worshipped in churches, people prize, esteem, "worship" the works of their own hands. Secondly, our nation is famous for "rebellion" – it was *born in rebellion!* It suffered the "Civil War," a war fought over the rebellion of the southern states. Thirdly, our nation is filled with "harlotry" – prostitution, pornography, sexual abandon! We truly possess the identifying "marks" of Ephraim! "For now, O Ephraim, you commit harlotry; Israel is defiled" (Hos.5:3). "The pride of Israel testifies to his face; therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them" (Hos.5:5). All Israel is guilty as charged – but the worst of them all is Ephraim, the ringleader of rebellion!

Because of this, God says, “Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke” (Hos.5:9). Why? God says, “I have seen a horrible thing in the house of Israel: There is the *harlotry of Ephraim*; Israel is defiled” (Hos.6:10). This also refers to *spiritual harlotry, going after false gods, false religions, PAGAN customs and beliefs of PAGANIZED churches.*

Racial Mixing

“Ephraim has *mixed* himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake unturned. Aliens have devoured his strength, but he does not know it” (Hos.7:8-9). The United States has been rightly called a “melting pot.” It has more immigrants and peoples from other nations than any other nation. It prides its tolerance. Yet it is also a “cake unturned” – that is, white on one side, black or brown on the other. “Half baked,” as they say. The mixing of the races and nationalities also causes racial prejudice, racial antagonisms, and unfair practices. Racism is a real problem. This will ultimately result in weakening the nation, as “aliens devour his strength.”

Foreign Entanglements

“Ephraim also is like a silly dove” (Hos.7:11). God compares Ephraim with a “silly dove” which seeks allies in the world. Even today, the United States seeks to build a “coalition against terror,” and tries to make “allies” of its enemies – including Syria, Iran, and even the Palestinians – to combat the threat of international terrorism. This strategy has already back-fired, as Iran coddles and helps terrorists to escape from Afghanistan. Truly, a “silly dove” is a very apt description of the foolishness of American foreign policy!

“Ephraim has hired lovers” (Hos.8:9). The United States makes alliances and pays foreign nations to co-operate in its fight against terror. Back-room deals were struck with the Russians, and Pakistan leaders, to gain their support in the war on terror, the Taliban, and Al Qaeda. This is much more true of the United States than any other nation on earth – including Great Britain.

Before I go on, one writer claims that the term “Ephraim” includes ALL the nations of the ten tribes which were carried into captivity, and later re-settled in western Europe. This statement, however, is patently false, when it is applied to the prophecies of the book of Hosea. When ALL the tribes of Israel are mentioned in Hosea, they are plainly referred to as “Israel.” In

Hosea 5:3 they are clearly distinguished from each other. We read: “I know Ephraim, and *Israel* is not hid from Me. For now, O Ephraim, you commit harlotry; *Israel* is defiled.” “Therefore Israel AND Ephraim stumble in their iniquity” (Hos.5:5).

God calls nations and things that which they are! He calls Ephraim “Ephraim,” because that is their tribal name! On the other hand, He calls “Israel” by their name, and He clearly distinguishes between the two!

Agricultural Wealth and Recklessness

Almighty God also tells us of Ephraim: “Ephraim is a trained *heifer* that loves to *thresh grain*; but I harnessed her fair neck, I will make Ephraim pull a plow” (Hos.10:11). Isn’t it interesting that America is the greatest AGRICULTURAL NATION in all the world? We love big farms, of rolling fields of wheat, corn, rye, millet, barley, and all kinds of grain. Our country is the most agriculturally blessed of all lands.

But God adds, “You have plowed wickedness; you have reaped iniquity. You have eaten the fruit of lies, because you trusted in your own way, in the multitude of your mighty men. Therefore tumult shall arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be plundered” (Hos.10:13-14). Although we are a mighty agricultural nation, America has led the way in abandoning the tried and true principles of agriculture, and has embarked on a scary, horrific program of agricultural disaster, based on using genetically modified organisms or GMOs – mixing the genetic pools of plants and animals to expand production, not knowing how these things will effect human health, the ecosystem, and the ultimate well-being of mankind. Violating the laws of God, which tell us God made EACH living creature to reproduce “after its own kind” (Gen.1), America is leading the way in crossing Genesis kinds and manipulating the genes in plants and animals, to make them “pesticide resistant,” and thus polluting the earth and environment and the nation’s food supply. This will lead, God says, to “tumult,” chaos, and serious national problems.

Wealth and Fraud

Ephraim also was to become a very wealthy nation. “And Ephraim said, ‘Surely I have become rich, I have found wealth for myself’” (Hos.12:8). How true! The United States is by far

the wealthiest nation on the earth; there is none comparable. Our gross domestic product is the envy of every nation on earth.

Yet at the same time, God says, “When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered, and the wickedness of Samaria. For they have committed fraud; a thief comes in; a band of robbers takes spoil outside” (Hos.7:1). Fraud! Massive business corruption! I read a book years ago called *The Robber Barons*, the story of the massive fraud committed by early American industrialists, bankers, railroad builders, and entrepreneurs, such as Jay Gould. America is famous for its industrial, commercial, and corporate GREED. Recently, the greatest bankruptcies in America have occurred, the result of rampant and uncontrolled fraud, greed, manipulation, and corruption – the Enron disaster, the greatest corporate failure in the history of America, may well pave the way for a host of similar business failures – all due to inordinate greed, avarice, and unbridled lust for profits! Truly, America fulfills this vivid Biblical description of “Ephraim”!

America has been lifted up to the top of the nations. But God says, “When Ephraim spoke, trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended through Baal worship, he died. Now they sin more and more, and have made for themselves molded images, idols of their silver” (Hos.13:1-2). When our nation was humble, in our beginnings, God blessed us abundantly, and intervened on our behalf. But now we have grown proud, self-sufficient, and have forgotten God, our Maker, and Redeemer. Now we sin, “more and more.” Truly, judgment is coming!

God goes on, “When they had pasture, they were filled; they were filled and their heart was exalted; therefore they forgot Me. So I will be to them like a *lion*; like a *leopard* by the road I will lurk; I will meet them like a *bear* deprived of her cubs” (Hos.13:6-8). Notice the three images – a lion, a bear, and a leopard. Could this not be a reference to the “Beast” – the New World Order – rising up, which will “devour” Ephraim and ravage the land? The bear is a symbol of Russia; the leopard could be a symbol of the Arab nations (Africa and the Middle East); the lion is sometimes a symbol of Assyria (modern Germany-Austria) (Nahum 2:11); of Babylon (Jer.4:7; Joel 1:6); and Egypt (Ezek.32:2).

Western Power

Ephraim “pursues the east wind” (Hos.12:1). An east wind blows *west*. Therefore, we would expect to find Ephraim located in the western part of the world – and true “west” would

lead to the “western hemisphere,” and the location of the United States of America! We are found at the same latitude as ancient Israel (Los Angeles is at the same latitude as Jerusalem, or Tel Aviv).

“Samaria-America”

The capital of ancient Ephraim was the city of “Samaria.” Samaria stands for the entire nation or tribe. I find it very interesting that if you drop the “s” from Samaria, you come up with “*Ameria*” – a name which is almost identical with *America*! Is this mere coincidence? Could there be a connection?

Whenever we read “Samaria,” as a reference in the books of the prophets to Ephraim, if we read “America” instead, it is very revealing! Notice a few examples:

“And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria [America]: They prophesied by Baal and caused My people of Israel to err” (Jer.23:13).

“And the wickedness of Samaria [America]” (Hos.7:1).

“The inhabitants of Samaria [America] fear because of the calf [lit. calves, images] of Beth Aven. For its people mourn for it, and its priests shriek for it – because its glory has departed from it” (Hos.10:5). Remember, Ephraim is compared to a bull or ox. The “calf” then would be a symbol of Ephraim, losing her glory and power.

“As for Samaria [America], *her king is cut off* like a twig on the water” (Hos.10:7).

Could this be an indication that the President of the United States will be “cut off” in some way? Either assassinated, or disabled? Historically, every president elected in a year ending in “zero” beginning with Abraham Lincoln, was assassinated or died while in office:

Abraham Lincoln – assassinated April 15, 1865

James A. Garfield – assassinated September 19, 1881

William McKinley – assassinated September 14, 1901

Warren G. Harding – died of a stroke while in office, August 2, 1923

Franklin D. Roosevelt – died of cerebral hemorrhage, April 12, 1945

John F. Kennedy – assassinated November 22, 1963

Ronald Reagan -- (attempted assassination, wounded, but survived).

No doubt there are many in the world who hate President George W. Bush, Jr., because he is the leader of America, and is waging a valiant war against terrorism. Terrorists have already attempted to strike at him. On September 11, 2001, one airliner which was hijacked was apparently going to crash into the White House.

But is the war against terrorism being compromised, and hijacked?

What, then, does prophecy reveal about our future?

The Future of Ephraim/America

God warns in the prophecies of Isaiah, “The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim . . . In that day the glory of Jacob will fade; the fat of his body will waste away. It will be as when the reaper gathers the standing grain and harvests the grain with his arm – as when a man gleanes heads of grain in the Valley of Rephaim [the dead]. Yet some gleanings will remain

“You have forgotten God your Saviour; you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress” (Isaiah 17:3-5, 10).

We are bringing God's wrath upon ourselves, as a people. When America forsakes Judah, the nation of Israel, she breaks God's covenant. At this time God is carefully watching events as they unfold. He notes in heaven that in a landmark vote taken by the Security Council of the United Nations, on a resolution *introduced by the United States*, approval for the establishment of a Palestinian state passed by an overwhelming vote of 14-1. Syria was the only dissenter, claiming it did not go far enough.

It is no coincidence that on that same date a National Day of *Fasting and Prayer* was held in Israel, because of the seriousness of the Palestinian terror attacks. Israel turns to God, but America courts the United Nations and world opinion. What must God think? When the American President, at the urging of a dovish Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and an Arabist State Department, voted for a Palestinian State in the U.N., they sank to the level of paganism in a futile attempt to appease already hate-filled and hostile Arab nations. By seeking to ally themselves with Christian-hating and Jew-hating Muslim nations, they are assisting the radical Muslim religion, and shooting themselves in the foot in their "war on terrorism." In doing so, they have allied themselves with pagans – and any such alliance is doomed to failure and destruction.

It is any coincidence that as America moves away from her former steadfast support of Israel to a wishy washy, divided strategy of appeasement of terrorists, such as Yasser Arafat, tornadoes have devastated Texas cities, and the worst drought in history is beginning to strike America's east coast, heartland, south, west and southwest – and also *Texas*?

May our nation come to its senses, and return to God, and declare a day of Fasting and Prayer, like Israel did, and plead to God for mercy and forgiveness – before it is too late! “ ‘Even now,’ declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity” (Joel 2:12-13, NIV).

The choice is ours. The balances are being weighed. Judgment is near!