

THE US AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY IS NOT A TRUE DOCTRINE

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PART 3

GENESIS 49 - THE PROPHECY OF THE TWELVE TRIBES IN THE LAST DAYS SEE FIG 3

How did Mr. Armstrong show the promises of 'a nation' and 'a company of nations' to Ephraim and Manasseh as coming to pass in our day today? In Gen 49:1 Jacob foretold what would befall each of his sons including Joseph in the 'last days'. Mr. Armstrong wanted us to see the modern nations of America and Britain as fulfillment of these 'birthright' promises to the two sons of Joseph. So he placed these 'last days' as our day today.

But can we tell from internal evidence in Genesis 49 whether this prophetic chapter was meant for our day today - or for the 'last days' of Israel when they entered into the Promised Land - or for the 'last days' of Israel and Judah before they went into captivity?

THE PROPHECY FOR SIMEON AND LEVI

Gen 49:5 Simeon and Levi [are] brethren; instruments of cruelty [are in] their habitations.

Gen 49:7 Cursed [be] their anger, for [it was] fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will DIVIDE them in Jacob, and SCATTER them in Israel.

This dividing and scattering was not fulfilled in our day today, but when Simeon and Levi received their inheritance in the Promised Land.

Simeon was too small for his own territory, so he was assigned within the territory of Judah. (See the map Fig 11) Thus his inheritance was DIVIDED with Judah.

Jos 19:9 Out of the portion of the children of Judah [was] the inheritance of the children of Simeon: for the part of the children of Judah was too much for them: therefore the children of Simeon had their inheritance within the inheritance of them.

The Levites were assigned towns to live in from the inheritance of the other tribes - forty-eight cities.

Num 35:7 [So] all the cities which ye shall give to the Levites [shall be] forty and eight cities: them [shall ye give] with their suburbs.

Num 35:8 And the cities which ye shall give [shall be] of the possession of the children of Israel: from [them that have] many ye shall give many; but from [them that have] few ye shall give few: every one shall give of his cities unto the Levites according to his inheritance which he inheriteth.

Nine of these cities were in Judah, three in Naphtali, and four in each of the other tribes (Joshua chapter 21). Thus the Levites were SCATTERED in Israel.

THE PROPHECY FOR JUDAH

Notice this prophecy for Judah.

Gen 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him [shall] the gathering of the people [be].

It is not a prophecy for today since the kings of Judah reigned after they entered the Promised Land. When Judah went into captivity to Babylon, the last king, Zedekiah and all his sons were killed. The lineage of David continued through King Jehoiachin and David's son Nathan (Mat 1, Luk 3) until Jesus who is 'Shiloh' in the prophecy

British Israelists say that, yes it is a prophecy for today because in order to fulfill this prophecy we MUST look after Zedekiah to find a royal line of descendants reigning somewhere in the world, and they must continue reigning until the second coming of Jesus. But consider that if God intended this prophecy to mean that there could be allowed no break in the line of reigning kings after Zedekiah, then the line of kings would also have begun from Judah himself. Saul could not have been chosen because he was of the tribe of Benjamin. (1Sam 9:1-2)

Consider also this scripture that proves the crown was not to continue after Zedekiah. Only the lineage was to continue until Christ.

Eze 21:26 Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this [shall] not [be] the same: exalt [him that is] low, and abase [him that is] high.

Eze 21:27 I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and IT (THE CROWN) SHALL BE NO [MORE], until he (JESUS) come whose right it is; and I will give it [him].

THE PROPHECY FOR ZEBULUN

This prophecy for Zebulun was not fulfilled in our day today, but when he received his inheritance in the Promised Land.

Gen 49:13 Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he [shall be] for an haven of ships; and his border [shall be] unto Zidon.

According to Wikipedia, nineteen names were given in Joshua 19:10-16 showing the borders of Zebulun. But out of them only Bethlehem is identified with certainty, and the archaeological site Tel Hanaton is associated with the city Hanaton listed as the boundary with Asher. However Josephus confirmed that Zebulun dwelt by the sea: Antiquities, 5.1.22 "The tribe of Zebulun's lot included the land which lay as far as the Lake of Genesareth [Sea of Galilee], and that which belonged to Carmel and the sea [Mediterranean]".

As you read the scriptures of Genesis 49 in Fig 3, you will find no examples of prophecies that can be definitely determined to be for our day today. Since the above three examples were for the 'last days' of when Israel entered the Promised Land or before they went into captivity, there is no reason to assume that any of the prophecies are for our day today and modern nations. This includes the prophecy about Joseph.

THE PROPHECY FOR JOSEPH

Gen 49:22 Joseph [is] a fruitful bough, [even] a fruitful bough by a well; [whose] branches run over the wall:

Gen 49:23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot [at him], and hated him:

Gen 49:24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty [God] of Jacob; (from thence [is] the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)

Gen 49:25 [Even] by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb:

Gen 49:26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

As we see here, the prophecy about Joseph gives us no indication as to when it would be fulfilled. Mr. Armstrong wanted us to see these blessings as huge modern wealthy nations. He said that the 'branches running over the wall' in verse 22 indicate that this would be a modern colonizing people. (Britain) But if we are going to be honest with Genesis 49, these scriptures about Joseph cannot be dogmatically interpreted as referring to our day today. They could pertain to the time when Israel entered the Promised Land just as the other examples do. Notice what Joshua said about Joseph, showing that the fulfillment of great blessing was evident at that time.

Jos 17:17 And Joshua spake unto the house of Joseph, [even] to Ephraim and to Manasseh, saying, Thou [art] a great people, and hast great power: thou shalt not have one lot [only]