

Are You waiting for the Messiah? Or is He waiting for you?

According to prophecy the Messiah will not come until after Ephraim, as well as Judah return to the land of Israel. If you are a descendent of Judah (and some Mennonites could be Jews), you may be well aware of it. But you may be uncertain if you are from Ephraim. And, even if you are neither Jew nor Ephraimite, your best interest lies in helping or joining those who will return to Israel. The certainty is, however, that the Messiah will only come after all the tribes of Israel return to the land of their inheritance...ersatz Israel.

Protestants and Jews have often disagreed on the identity of the Messiah; but they have always agreed on the basic condition for His coming. This is the main reason why so many Bible-believing Christians have been Zionists. Some sixty years ago, the Biblically grounded political leaders in Britain and the United States, believed that by allowing the Jews to return to Israel, they were setting the proper condition for the Messiah's coming. The Jews however are only a small part of the Israelite people. The Scriptures tell us that, angered by the idolatrous conclusion of the reign of king Solomon, YHWH separated Israel into two kingdoms. The larger one in the north carried on the name of Israel, but was often called by the name of its leading tribe -- Ephraim. Eventually, as a divine punishment for continuing idolatry, both kingdoms (or houses) were sent into exile. Some Jews, the ancestors of those we know as Jews today and the only visible remnant of all the tribes of Israel, were able to return to the land in the time of Daniel and the Persians. Now there are over five million Jews in the country of Israel. There are few, if any, Ephraimites. This imbalance is unlikely to last; for if it does the situation will be out of line with the Scriptures and the prophetic conditions for the Messiah's coming.

"In those days (the last times) the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel (Ephraim), and they shall come together..... to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers." (Jeremiah 3:18)

"And it shall come to pass in that day (the last times) that YHWH shall set His hand again the second time (the first time having been the exodus from Egypt) to recover the remnant of His people..... And He.....shall assemble the outcasts of (the house of) Israel, and gather together the dispersed of (the house of) Judah from the four corners of the earth." (Isaiah 11:11-12)

"Thus said the Master YHWH, "See, I am taking the children of Yisra'el from among the gentiles, wherever they have gone, and shall gather them from all around, and I shall bring them into their land. And I shall make of them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Yisra'el. And one sovereign shall be sovereign over them all, and let them no longer be two nations, and let them no longer be divided into two reigns.

"And they shall no longer defile themselves with their idols, nor with their disgusting matters, nor with any of their transgressions. And I shall save them

from all their dwelling places (churches) in which they have sinned, and I shall cleanse them. And they shall be my people, and I shall be their Elohim,

"while David My servant (the Messiah, descended from King David) is sovereign over them. And they shall all have one shepherd and walk in My right-rulings and guard My laws, and shall do them." Ezekiel 37:21-28

These verses tell us that three things will happen to the two houses after their return: purification, unification and the appointment of a Davidic king or Messiah. Many other Scriptures confirm that this is the order and the condition for the Messiah's coming. So we need to ask ourselves, "Are we waiting for the Messiah to come in this way?" or "Is the Messiah waiting for us to return to the land of our inheritance and put the conditions for His coming in place?"

Dear, dear Mennonite people, for most of you this is so very strange and so easy to reject. But the end time message is for the hearts of the children to turn to their fathers. Indeed you are the offspring of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, their literal descendents; and if the truth be known your Father is YHWH, the Elohim of Israel. That is His Name and how He calls Himself. It is His great desire to regather His children from among all the nations into which you are scattered, to thoroughly cleanse you for all your idolatries, and to appoint His Messiah to reign over you. And do not think that you can dismiss the message, because this is how, without fail, Elohim will glorify His name among the gentile nations. It is for this purpose that He will bring you "out of Egypt" a second time.