

# TWO STICKS, TWO NATIONS, TWO KINGDOMS, TWO PEOPLES, TWO HOUSES

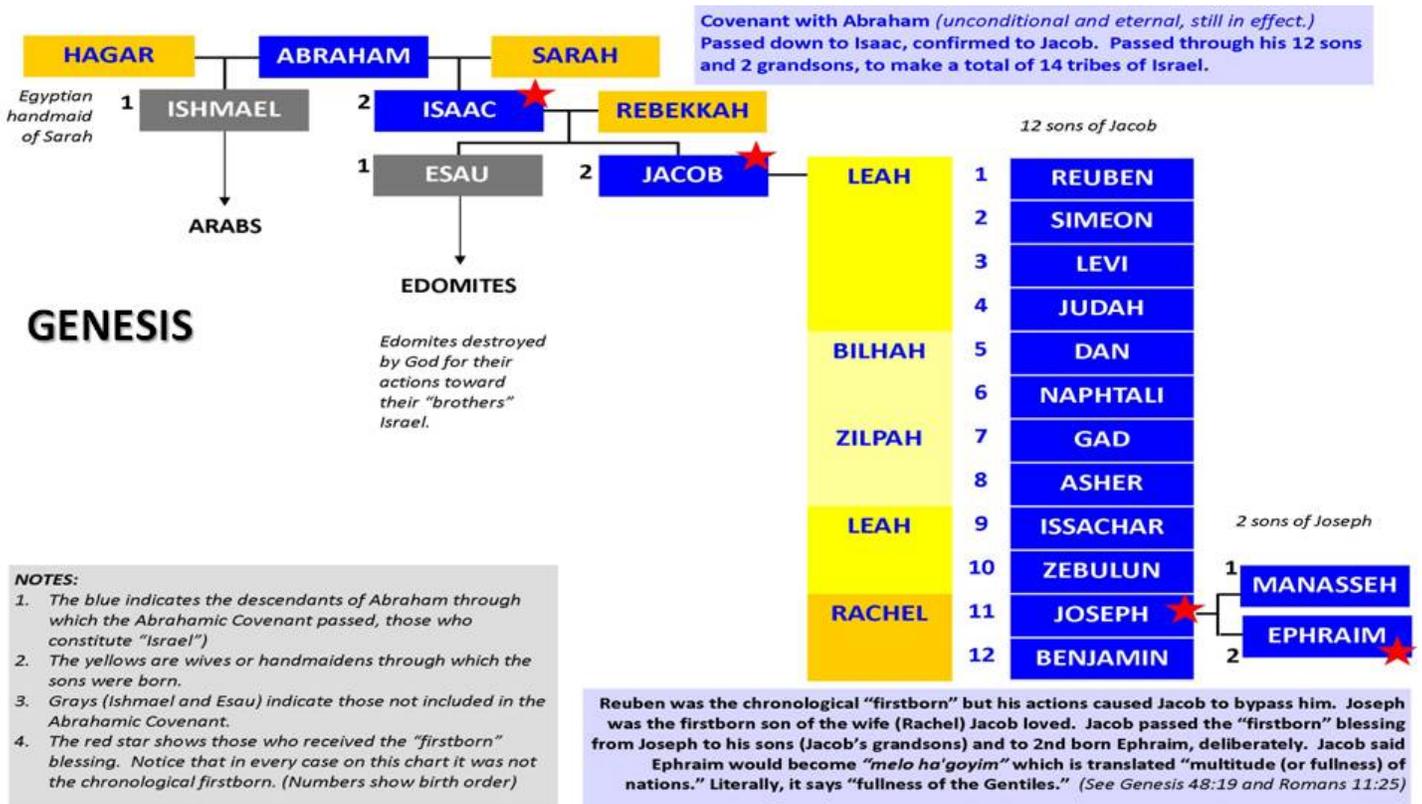
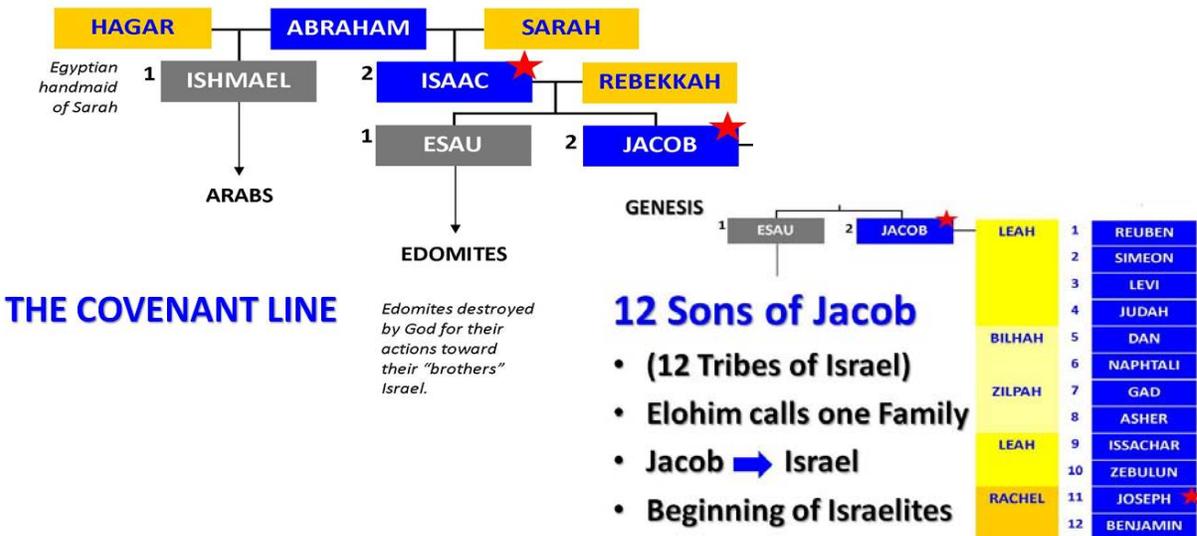
## ONE RESTORED ISRAEL



### Critical scriptures for this lesson:

- Genesis 48 (Jacob's blessing of Ephraim)
- Jeremiah 31 (The New Covenant)
- Ezekiel 37 (Dry bones and two Sticks)
- Romans 9-11 (Israel's restoration)
- Ephesians 2 and 3 (One New Man)

### The beginnings of ISRAEL...



## Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh

Ephraim will become “the fullness of the nations” (*melo ha’goyim*)

<sup>5</sup> And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine... <sup>12</sup> So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth.

<sup>13</sup> And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel’s left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them near him. <sup>14</sup> Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim’s head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh’s head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn. ....Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”

<sup>17</sup> Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father’s hand to remove it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head.

<sup>18</sup> And Joseph said to his father, “Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.” <sup>19</sup> But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.” <sup>20</sup> So he blessed them that day, saying, “By you Israel will bless, saying, ‘May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!’” And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh. (Genesis 48:5, 12-20)

**“...his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.”**

***melo ha’goyim* (literally)“Fullness of the Gentiles”**

**Remember this. It is a critical piece to understanding our identity and God’s Plan!**

### Moving on...

- About 400 years between Genesis/Exodus
- Israelites go into Bondage
- Slavery in Egypt
- Israelites Cry Out to Elohim
- Moses sent to deliver them from Egypt and shape them into a nation in the wilderness
- Brings them into the Promised Land
- Conquests, Period of Judges
- Monarchy (kings Saul, David, Solomon)

### Elohim Welcomes “aliens” to join, be part of Israel

Some non-Hebrew people (Gentiles) joined Israel, both in the wilderness and in the land. Those who worship YHWH, celebrate the feasts, and sojourn with Israel, are called “Israel.” God commands no distinction between them and the Hebrew people. They are ALL Israel. ISRAEL IS NOT JUST AN ETHNIC DISTINCTION. It is the name for the people of God.

**This must be repeated: ISRAEL IS NOT JUST AN ETHNIC DISTINCTION.** It is the name for the people of God. (*then...and now.*)

**Then comes division of the united kingdom of Israel...**



**ONE KINGDOM  
ONE NATION  
ONE HOUSE  
ONE (Yahweh’s) PEOPLE**  
(Saul, David, Solomon)

Anyone else want to be part of Israel and worship Yahweh?  
**ANYONE** can. **ANYONE**.  
(Rahab, Ruth, etc.)  
**YOU ARE ISRAEL.**



- **Northern House/Kingdom of ISRAEL** (“Ephraim” special name Elohim used for northern kingdom) Conquered by Assyrians 722 BC

- Ephraim scattered among the nations (Gentiles) (“melo ha’goyim”) Does not return to land

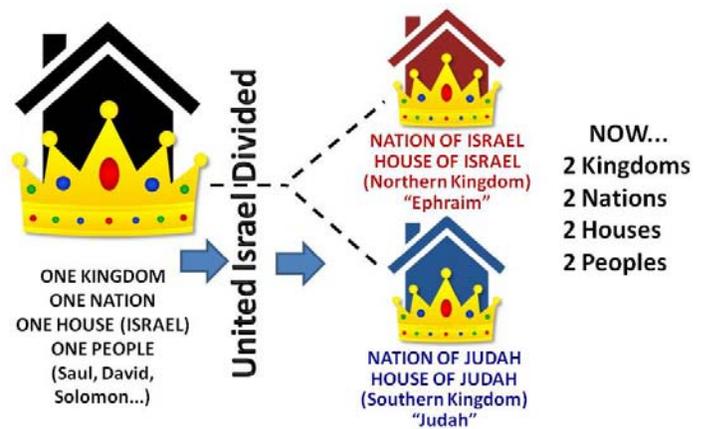
- Jacob’s blessing fulfilled

- Ephraim becomes “fullness of the gentiles” (nations)

- **Southern House/Kingdom of JUDAH** (“Judah”/ “Jews”) Conquered by Babylon, 606 BC

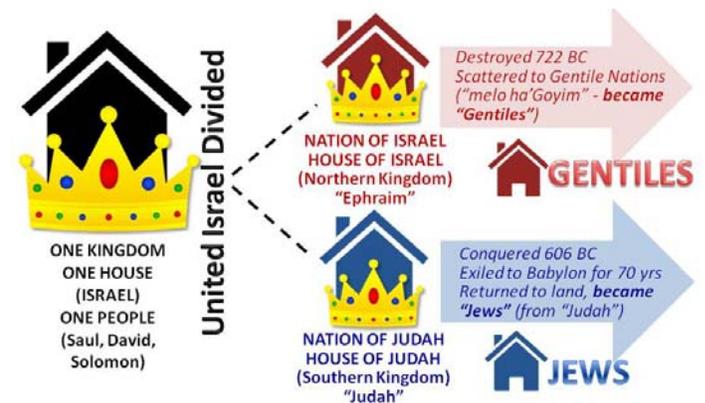
- Kingdom of Judah taken as captives to Babylon for 70 years

- Eventually returns to land, became known as “Jews” (no longer a kingdom)



**About this same time, Jeremiah 31, THE NEW COVENANT...**

<sup>31</sup> “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel [Ephraim] and with the house of Judah—<sup>32</sup> not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.



God has something different planned now. The Mosaic Covenant, the Marriage Covenant between Elohim and Israel, has been broken. He will divorce His Wife, but He will also restore her. God has a new plan...He will take her again as His wife, under the terms of this New covenant.

He will die to release His “wife” from the Old Covenant. At the same time He will pay the price for her sins. He will rise from the dead, then He will take her to Himself again, as the “Bride of Messiah.” As before, anyone can be part of this new wife. All believers, Jew (Judah) and Gentile (Ephraim), are then “betrothed” to Him. They are the Ekklesia (the called out ones).

**A short time later, He reveals even more... THE DRY BONES AND THE TWO STICKS**

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.””<sup>11</sup> ...these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’<sup>12</sup> ...Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you shall know that I am the Lord, [YHWH] .... <sup>14</sup> I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it,” says the Lord.”

<sup>15</sup> Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>16</sup> “As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: ‘For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.’ Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.’ <sup>17</sup> Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.



<sup>18</sup> “And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, ‘Will you not show us what you mean by these?’— <sup>19</sup> say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.”’ <sup>20</sup> And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.



<sup>21</sup> “Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Surely I will take the children of Israel [both houses] from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; <sup>22</sup> and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.”

A powerful picture is developing here....God has an incredible plan. He is promising His people that **He will restore the two divided houses into one united house of Israel**. He will do it through a New Covenant, and a new way of making them clean before Him. One nation, one people, with one King - FOREVER. **God loves to use object lessons!**

**Consider:**

- This prophecy goes well beyond merely rejoining the divided nations of Israel into one.
- Elohim allowed the sovereign nation of Israel to be split into two....and for one to be scattered among the Gentile nations. Why?
- Consider the “blessing” given to Ephraim back in Genesis.... “*melo ha’goyim*”
- This prophecy is about end times, when Israel will occupy the land forever, in eternal peace, with God dwelling among them.
- Why did God allow the kingdoms to split?
- **Who, exactly, is Ephraim** in this prophecy? We know who the “Jews” are (*name from the tribe and kingdom of Judah*), but who is Ephraim, one of the two “sticks” joined together (*remember, they “don’t exist” any longer*)? **Or do they?**
- How many kings will be in Elohim’s kingdom? How many nations or kingdoms will there be?
- Who will be the “wife of God?” – who is now the “Bride of Messiah?”

**Today...**The “called out” assembly of Believers grows, and the Jews (Judah) “are blinded, in part..” UNTIL... “the fullness of the Gentiles” (*melo ha’goyim*, the “lost house of Israel”) has FULLY come in.



Anyone want to join the Ekklesia (“Church”) and worship Yahweh and His Anointed? **ANYONE can. ANYONE.**

(Arabs, Chinese, Jewish European, African, etc. i.e., Jews AND Gentiles) There is no more distinction. **All called “Ekklesia” ALL ARE ISRAEL, the intended wife of God**

*For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in**. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." (Romans 11:25-27)*

### Today...

- Who, or what, is the **"called out" assembly of Believers**? We call it "the Church," a title that creates some misconception.
- All believers (*no matter where they are from*) are "called out." Together we are the Body of the Messiah, called out from Gentile nations, called out of the "world."
- Today the Body of Believers is predominantly "Gentile"
- God says we are "formerly Gentile" (*meaning no longer Gentile*) We are the **"fullness of the nations"** (*melo ha'goyim – "goyim" = "Gentiles"*)
- That "Body" can also go by another name: **Ephraim!**
- Together with Judah, Ephraim (*formerly "Gentile" believers*) is reunited into the whole House of Israel. **REMEMBER, NOT AN ETHNIC DISTINCTION, but a name for the people of God.**

***"And SO, ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED."*** (Romans 11:26) **"so" = "in this way" ...WHAT way?**

- After the "fullness of the Gentiles" comes in, then the "Jews" will see and accept their Messiah, and thus all Israel will be saved by faith in Yeshua.
- (The "lost" house of Ephraim [*Northern Kingdom of Israel*], became the "fullness of the gentiles" and was not lost at all. They will be saved AND the Jews [the Southern Kingdom of Judah], a restored united kingdom of priests, and in this way ALL ISRAEL is saved.)

***"And SO, ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED."***

- DOES NOT mean that ALL Israel will be saved aside from faith in the Messiah Yeshua.
- The two houses of Israel will be saved, all 12 tribes, composed of both Jew (Judah) and Gentile (Ephraim).
- The ultimate Israel, the soon-to-be wife of God, (Bride of Messiah) will be neither Jew nor Gentile. United and restored, completed ISRAEL, no more "Jew" and no more "Gentile."
- Whole House of Israel is "One New Man" (Ephesians 3)
- Our new identity - All believers ARE Israel, the redeemed People of God, reunited and restored as One People, One Nation of Priests, One Bride, One Wife – ISRAEL.

### **No Longer Gentiles: Ephesians 2 (AMPLIFIED)**

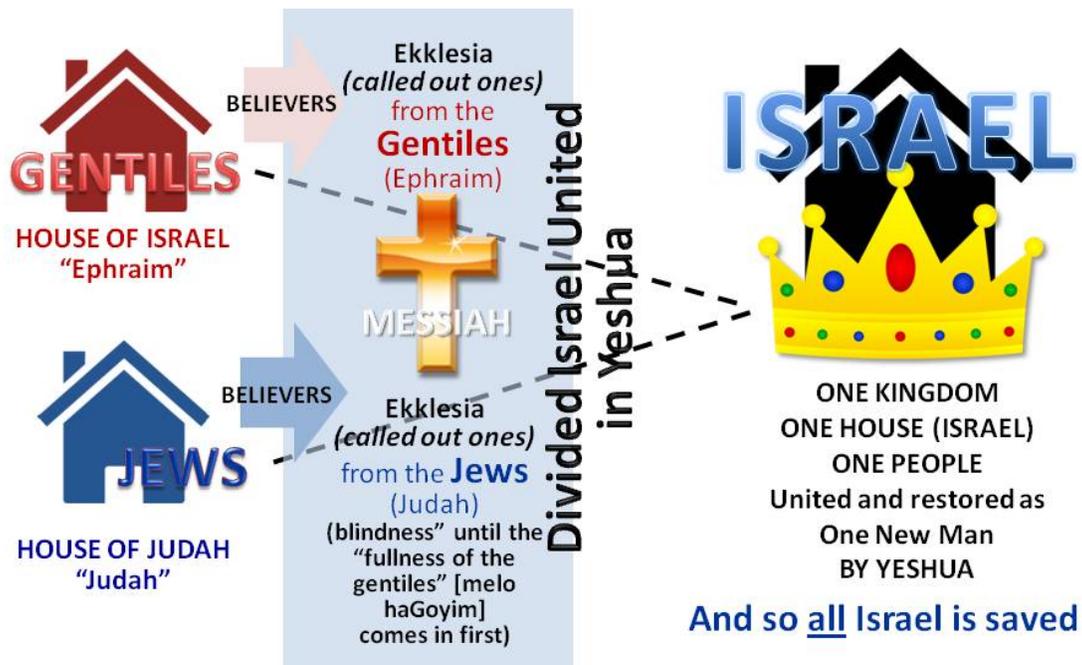
<sup>11</sup> *Therefore, remember that at one time you were Gentiles in the flesh, called Uncircumcision by those who called themselves Circumcision, [itself a mere mark] in the flesh made by human hands.* <sup>12</sup> *[Remember] that you were at that time separated (living apart) from Christ [excluded from all part in Him], utterly estranged and outlawed from the rights of Israel as a nation, and strangers with no share in the sacred compacts of the [Messianic] promise [with no knowledge of or right in God's agreements, His covenants]. And you had no hope (no promise); you were in the world without God.* <sup>13</sup> *But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were [so] far away, through (by, in) the blood of Christ have been brought near.* <sup>14</sup> *For He is [Himself] our peace (our bond of unity and harmony). He has made us both [Jew and Gentile] one [body], and has broken down (destroyed, abolished) the hostile dividing wall between us,...* <sup>15</sup> *By abolishing in His [own crucified] flesh the enmity [caused by] the Law with its decrees and ordinances [which He*

annulled]; that He from the two might create in Himself one new man [one new quality of humanity out of the two], so making peace.<sup>16</sup> And [He designed] to reconcile to God both [Jew and Gentile, united] in a single body by means of His cross, thereby killing the mutual enmity and bringing the feud to an end.

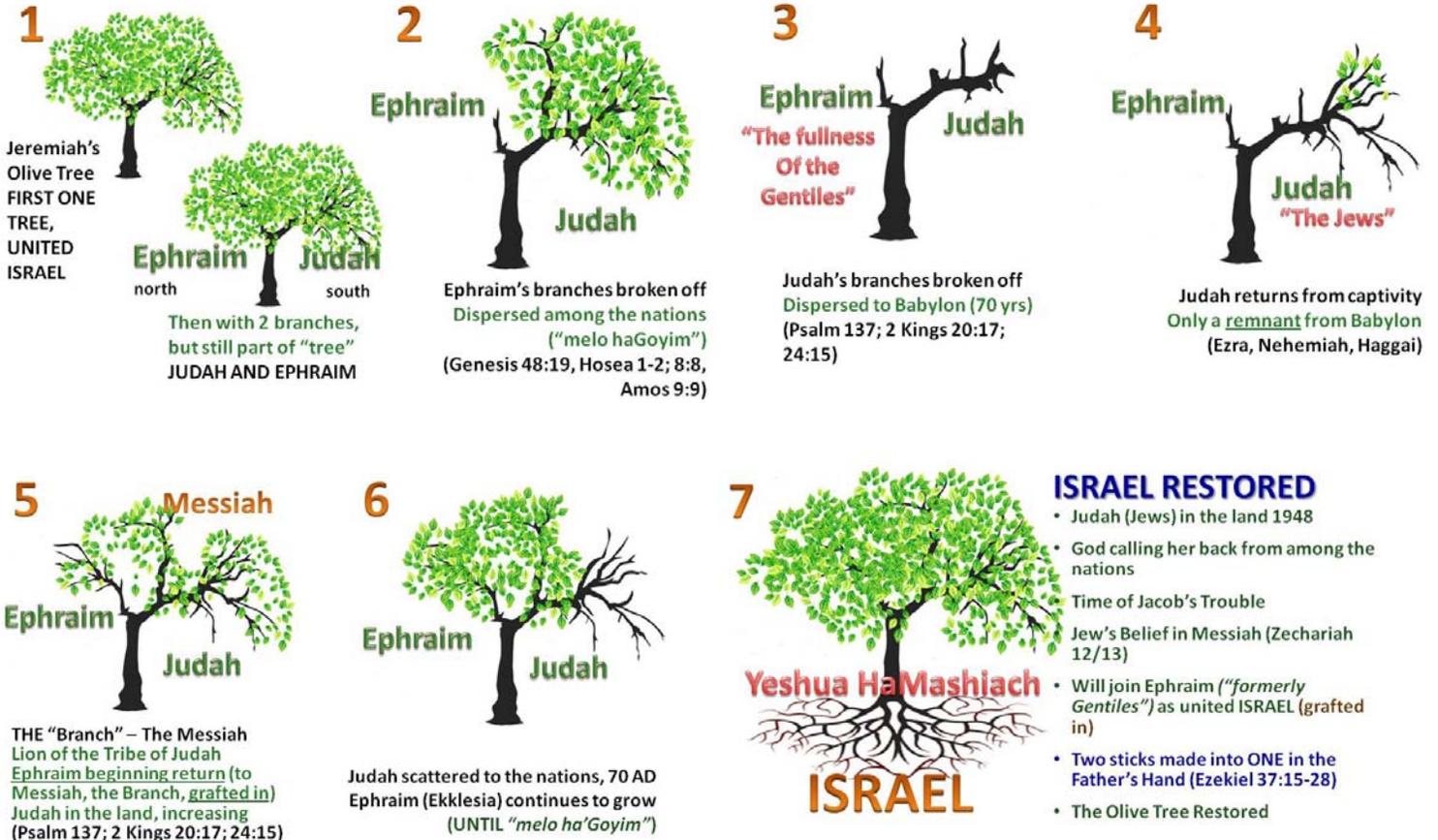
<sup>17</sup> And He came and preached the glad tidings of peace to you who were afar off and [peace] to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For it is through Him that we both [whether far off or near] now have an introduction (access) by one [Holy] Spirit to the Father [so that we are able to approach Him]. <sup>19</sup> Therefore you are no longer outsiders (exiles, migrants, and aliens, excluded from the rights of citizens), but you now share citizenship with the saints (God's own people, consecrated and set apart for Himself); and you belong to God's [own] household. <sup>20</sup> You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself the chief Cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In Him the whole structure is joined (bound, welded) together harmoniously, and it continues to rise (grow, increase) into a holy temple in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicated, consecrated, and sacred to the presence of the Lord]. (AMP)

ALL Believers are part of the WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL – Judah and Ephraim are reunited!

**AND HE DID IT ALL THROUGH YESHUA**



## The WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL



Ezekiel 37 is being fulfilled TODAY! The "Gentile Church" ("formerly Gentile" according to Elohim) is none other than Ephraim, fulfilling the prophecy about the "fullness of the nations." In Yeshua, Ephraim is reunited with Judah (Jews) as the WHOLE HOUSE of ISRAEL, "one stick in His hands."

- The "Ekklesia" (Church) is NOT a "3<sup>rd</sup> party" group allowed to "tag along."
- The Ekklesia is represented by Hebrews and Gentiles from all nations, fondly called by Elohim, "Ephraim."
- We are also called the "Bride of Messiah" and will eventually "marry" our husband forever.
- Before this time, however, our brother "Judah" must also come to Him, on a national level. Judah represents "Jews" of today (as a whole).
- We pray, wait for their return, and grafting in as well.
- Together, we eagerly await the coming of our Bridegroom!

**One People, The Whole House of Israel,  
Redeemed and United (Judah and Ephraim) in Yeshua.  
Together we are awaiting His return!**