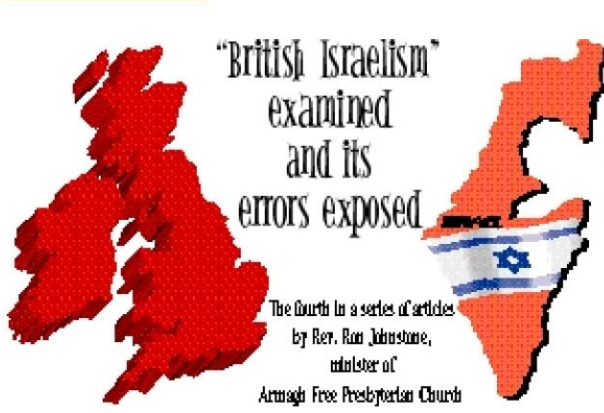




## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### "British Israelism" examined and its errors exposed



These articles have aroused opposition, for the most part, of the most inane nature. It has to be said that there was no attempt whatever to answer the points that were made from the Word of God. Rather, attacks on anyone and anything that would serve as a diversion and conceal the failure of the advocates of the folly of British Israelism. Abusive phone calls and e-mails mark the response of most of those who contacted us from the BI camp. Most, but not all were of this ilk. I did talk to one

young man who promised that he would convey to Mr. Alan Campbell the open invitation to reply to the articles and have this reply printed in "The Burning Bush." He was very courteous and freely admitted that he was unable to comment on the scriptures brought to his attention. He was told that it was most foolish to commit yourself to a system of teaching about which you really know nothing. I suspect that is the position of most BI disciples. We are pleased to present Rev. Ron Johnstone's fourth and final article in this series and repeat our confidence that our detractors will once again be unable to answer what is said from the Word of God. It is one thing to claim you believe and teach the Bible in a church advertisement or on a web site, but quite another to answer from the Bible that critique which demonstrates that your teaching is anything but Biblical. *The Editor.*

This is the last article in the series. This is not because we have run out of material. Space could be given to answer the foolish claims such as that "possessing the gate of their enemies" Gen 22:17; 24:60, means Britain owning Gibraltar! Space could also be devoted to answering the "Ensign" magazine's comment about there being a "sub-species of man existing as a humanoid." However it has not been our intention to answer every claim of British Israelites, especially when there was no attempt at refutation of earlier articles.

The purpose of the articles has been to warn believers of the dangers of being sucked in to extreme B.I. teaching and thereby making shipwreck of their faith. We have pointed out that not all who hold B I views have gone to the same extreme as others, but nevertheless some have been led into what must be classed as damnable heresies. It would be inconsistent of us to expose the false teachings of the Church of Rome and yet not expose the errors of **EXTREME B I** teaching when it crosses our path.

I did not set out to research B I literature but was alarmed at material that came unsolicited into my possession. It was out of a concern that any Free Presbyterian would be swayed by the strong Protestant claims made by some B I proponents and so give cre-



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dence to the myths and legends they propagate that I first put pen to paper. Since the first article, more blasphemous anti-Negro and anti-Jewish literature has been sent to us, literature that I never imagined would be circulated among professed evangelicals.

It is interesting that writers on British Israelism have pointed out that there have been two different groups in the forefront of promoting the teaching. One has been a group among Church of England evangelicals. The other, more extreme, has been groups of "Oneness" Pentecostals in USA and Australia, some teaching that baptism is necessary for salvation, "soul sleep" and the continuation of the Old Testament dietary laws. It has recently come to our attention that it is claimed that "The Worldwide Church of God", commenced by H W Armstrong, has now renounced its British Israelite teaching, stating it was based on myths and legends. In his dictionary recommended for use for our Sabbath Schoolteachers, Dr. Alan Cairns has this to say about British Israelism. . . . .

### **BRITISH ISRAELISM**

A fanciful theory, which holds that Great Britain is really the Israelite tribe of Ephraim, the United States is Manasseh, and the British throne is the throne of David. British Israelism (B.I.) has constructed a theory, which it passes off as history, that makes the British and American white populations direct descendants of the Israelites from the dispersion period.

The most plausible arguments advanced for the theory are based on the similarity of a few Hebrew and English words. For example, Saxon is said to be really Isaacson, -- son of Isaac; British is said to be two Hebrew words, berith, "covenant," and ish, "man", yielding the meaning "the men of covenant." The Engl part of England is alleged to be the Hebrew "egel", "bullock" because of the widespread sacrifice of bullocks there by "Issacson", leading to the popular title John Bull. These arguments are purely imaginary. They are based upon the similarity in sound of a few words and have no foundation in fact. BI's "history" of Jeremiah's escape with Zedekiah's daughter from Egypt to Ireland, carrying the Stone of Scone, is also unattested fancy. The removal of this "stone of destiny" to Scotland and then to Westminster Abbey is all part of B.I. lore. Professor Ramsey, the London geologist, upon chemical examination of the stone pronounced it be "calcareous sandstone of a reddish or purplish colour with heterogeneous pebbles, and of Scottish origin." The entire theory of the ten lost tribes is a myth also. According to BI, the ten northern tribes were lost and were not included in the regathering with Judah after the exile. But according to Luke 2:36, Anna was of the northern tribe of Asher. In Acts 26:7 Paul mentions the presence of "our twelve tribes," indicating that none of them had been "lost."

B.I exhibits an arbitrary exegesis of Scripture married to a fairy-tale tradition posing as history and has produced "one of the most baseless and absurd varieties of Bible study that the human mind has yet produced" (A Pieters, *The Seed of Abraham*, p.159). {Dictionary of Theological Terms by Alan Cairns, p.68,69}.

### **DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT SUPPORT B I ?**

BI writers often refer to the Assyrian captivity of the Northern Kingdom of Israel which took place from 741BC to 721 BC. They argue that all the people of the 10 tribes were carried away into Assyria and then later set off north and west into Europe. They claim the blessings of Jacob upon Ephraim and Manasseh have been and are being fulfilled in the white citizens of Britain and N America. Some boldly state that NONE out of the 10 tribes



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returned to Palestine. However such claims face a major difficulty! The scriptures tell a different story. Years after the captivity, "Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover unto the LORD God of Israel." 2 Chron 30:1. Further to that, 2 Chron 30:18 states that, "many of Ephraim and Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun" came to Jerusalem. That would have been a long trip if they had to come all the way from Britain and Ireland!

In the year 628 BC, a century after the Assyrian captivity, Josiah called Israel and Judah to observe the Passover. 2 Chron 34:9 records that Ephraim and Manasseh contributed to the repairing of the Temple by Josiah. If the 10 tribes were in Europe at this time, as B I teachers maintain, how could they also be present at Jerusalem? In Luke 2:36 it is recorded that the Saviour was seen in the Temple by a prophetess named Anna, of the tribe of Asher. If Asher had disappeared into Europe and lost knowledge of their identity, who had kept the lineage of Anna's family?

BI teachers claim that the appointed "place for My people Israel" referred to in 2 Sam 7:10 is the British Isles. Followers of B I in USA, usually known as "Identity Truth" teach the appointed place is N America. We will not take the space to go into detail on the meaning of 2 Sam 7:10 but rather urge readers to note that the passage specifically mentions the building of Solomon's temple, and "the place" was where the house was to be built (verse 13). Where was the house built? In the "appointed place" the land of Canaan, not somewhere else. Years later Nehemiah said it was the "place" to which Israel returned after their captivity, when God "gathered them from thence" to "bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set My Name there", Nehemiah 1:8-10. One should also note the margin cross reference from 2 Sam 7:10 in 2 Kings 21:7,8 which clearly shows the 'House' referred to is in Jerusalem not in London or New York! One wonders how THE place could be said to be in both Britain and the USA at the same time. It is interesting that though challenged we have still not heard an explanation of how those who travelled from Britain (Ephraim) suddenly became the tribe of Manasseh when they landed in North America. Neither has it been explained how USA (Manasseh) could be blessed if they rebelled against the Royal Israelite throne in England. Surely every true Israelite should acknowledge the Throne of David. Verses in Isaiah that refer to "isles" are said by B I teachers to mean the British Isles. However in Hebrew the word can be translated "coastlands", "the shore of a mainland or an island coast".

### **THE SETTING OF DATES**

A characteristic of many BI teachers is the tendency to set dates. This accounts for its attraction to some that love to hear such sensational claims. Hence 1917 is claimed to be the end of the times of the Gentiles and some taught that the generation then alive would not pass away. I received literature from advocates of B I which stated the eclipse of the sun last August was a fulfilment of prophecy. Their proof was that it occurred in the astrological star sign Leo that means Lion. It was therefore a Divine sign that the Age of the Lion of Judah was about to begin!

Scores of pages have been sent to Rev Foster by BI teachers that predict certain dates. The pyramid of Giza is referred to as a God-given chart of the end times. It is sad that some believers in Ulster have propagated the myth that the measurements of a pyramid in



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Egypt are able to tell us dates for the Lord's return. I would strongly urge all young believers in the Free Presbyterian Church to run from professed Christians who make such claims. The pyramid of Giza has been used by Jehovah Witnesses, Ba'hai and other cults and as well, sadly, by some BIs and by Barry Smith to set prophetic dates.

### **ADDING TO SCRIPTURE**

Some BI teachers have added to scripture. Great emphasis is placed on the Apocrypha. Various teachers claim inspiration for a 29th chapter of Acts which claims that Paul came to London to preach. Others have claimed inspiration for writings to Israelites living in Ireland. I personally received a leaflet urging support for an expedition to the hill Tara in the Irish Republic because it had been prophesied that when the "ark of God" hidden there had been dug up there would be peace in Ulster. I have received many communications because of these articles. Some are sad, such as the person who stated that we are Israel because the word Scottish is from the Hebrew Succoth and the Scottish people have been wanderers! That writer wrote nothing to refute our statements in the articles. However, some of the communications I have received have made me righteously indignant. How shocking it is to receive literature defending Sheldon Emery as a man of God. In one of his books the Negro is described as the "Beast of the Field" and Christianity as being a religion ONLY OF THE WHITE MAN.

Even more blasphemous literature has been received which states that the Jews today and at the time of Christ were in fact Edomites. It is actually claimed that the Jew came from a union between Satan and Eve. It is stated they are "genetically" descended from Satan! Some readers may have been incredulous when I highlighted that there was literature being circulated in extreme B I circles in Northern Ireland, which taught that Adam was the father of the white race only. Such teach that there were mongrelised races on the earth before Adam was created. An article carried on Alan Campbell's "Open Bible Ministries" web site contains the following quote. "So the descendants of this Genesis 1 creation of Mankind are not within an Anointed People, or in the Kingdom. Only the Adamic strain, sons of Adam, through Abraham and the one seed from Isaac to Israel (referred to in Galatians 3:16) which is anointed, will qualify as heirs to the promise; the evidence for this statement is supported throughout Scripture." This quote is from a ridiculous article in which the writer claims that Bible translators have been wrong to put "Christ " in verses such as Gal 3:26-28; 5:2-4. The use of the Greek "Christos" which means "anointed" is claimed not to refer to the Lord Jesus Christ but to an "anointed people". The purpose of this argument is to try and prove, as the above quote shows, that non-Israelite i.e. coloured people are not included in the New Testament promises. The blessings that Paul describes are to be restricted by the writer to the "anointed" race. "Anointed people" is not a translation at all but a totally unwarranted perversion of what Paul is actually saying. It is utterly wrong to use the noun "people" with anointed, as the noun "laos" meaning people is not found in Galatians at all! The attempt to show that Paul meant "anointed people" rather than Christ is puerile and unworthy of any person who seeks to be treated as a serious Bible scholar. The entire argument is based on the writer's ex-cathedra pronouncement that Paul cannot be allowed to refer to Christ Jesus in the dative case and his arbitrary insertion of "people" after "anointed".

It is shocking just how far the writer goes to try and prove that the blessings of the gospel



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are only for Israelites. Sadly, someone who does not know any Greek or grammar may be wrongly impressed by the article on "Open Bible Ministries" Web site. The writer of the article on that web site certainly displays that he does not understand the Greek dative and genitive.

Unlike extreme B Is, we believe with Paul that God hath made of one blood all nations and all men are descended from Adam, Acts 17:26. We believe that the Bride of Christ is the Church made up of some out of every tribe, tongue, people and nation. We in the Free Presbyterian Church have no room for those who teach the blasphemy that Adam is the father of the white race only or who teach the nonsense contained in the above article carried on Alan Campbell's site. We can, as Reformed Evangelical Protestants, have differences of opinion on prophetic matters BUT there can be no acceptance of such extreme B I teaching, which leads to such dangerous heresies.

***We appreciate the effort, time and study that Rev. Ron Johnstone has put into these articles. I believe that they will serve the cause of God's Truth well, especially amongst younger believers who might be impressed by the sensationalised revelations put forward by British Israelism. The Editor.***