

UNITY-FOSTERING SOLUTION FOR THE RETURNING TEN TRIBES: IDENTITY AND RETURNING TO THE COVENANT

by

Steve Mathe

editor of <http://www.VoicesoftheTenTribes.com> <http://www.uniteourheart.com> <http://www.shaar-israel.org>

Unity among the “returnees” of Israel’s so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” has been a difficult issue since the beginning of this *movement* in the 19th Century. A growing number of returnees are concerned about increasing fragmentation and lack of unity among the manifold factions in this prophesied *Movement*. These trends are essentially based on doctrinal differences which foster separations, disrespect, lack of brotherly love and lack of focus on basic, fundamental essentials. These dispositions hinder growth, empowerment and effectiveness in the regathering process into which the pioneers of the movement are drafted by the Almighty. This author proposes a Scripture-based solution to foster a “workable unity” while allowing for differences of opinions. The purpose of this white paper is to foster unity which we can find in two principles: ***identity and direction***.

The Movement is growing and its presence is now easily detectable on the Internet, social media, books and with a growing number of fellowships and organizations with diverse names, doctrinal positions, foci and agendas. Some call the Movement the “Hebrew Roots Movement,” others call it the “Two-House Movement,” “Hebrews,” “Northern Kingdom,” “Ephramites,” “B’nei Yosef,” and “House of Israel,” to name a few. Some emphasize a return to a form of first century Christianity with strict Halacha of Orthodox Judaism, some as B’nei Noach, some to outright conversion to Orthodox Judaism, some to a form of Karaiteism or to a mix of elements of all these schools of thought. Numerous factions within the aggregate group emphasize diverse principles and priorities which define them as disparate factions, among which there is no viable agreement but a too-often vehement oppositional disposition. The Ten Tribes divorced from the God of Israel and His Torah for some 3000 years and took on Gentile identities in their prison houses, (Isa. 42:7,18, 22-23, 49:9). This resulted in concomitant religious loyalties with which they define themselves to this day. Their pioneers have an all-encompassing drive to learn what the *roots* of Abrahamic faith are, in order that they may *return or turn to them*. This motivation to search for “roots” can be viewed as a realistic and valid *search for their forgotten and “lost” identities in the past* which have **originally** defined them. It is also a search for the true and needed designation which hopefully will define them today. This “root” orientation to an *identity in the past* is the common denominator we can all use as a **unifying factor** to check the fragmentation of ***the*** Movement as well as to **unify** the Movement under **one core identity**.

The key essential foundation of the *past identity* of Israel as God’s **firstborn** is their **contractual appointment** to be teachers of the Torah to all the other nations/children of God.

And ye shall be unto me **a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation**. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children **of** Israel. —Ex. 19:6

This Covenant (contract) was made with all of Israel’s Tribes for all time as a **national Covenant**. It included a “curse clause” which specified that reneging on the Covenant, would bring exile from the Land and **loss of that covenant-related identity**.

Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath; but with him that standeth here with us this day before the LORD our God, and also with him that is not here with us this day... lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go to serve the gods of those nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;... the LORD will not be willing to pardon him, but then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy shall be kindled against that man, and all the curse that is written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall **blot out his name from under heaven**; the LORD will not be willing to pardon him, but then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy shall be

kindled against that man, and all the curse that is written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall **blot out his name from under heaven**; —Deut. 29:14, 18, 20

History records the Divine charge and the reason why the curse clause was enacted.

And the king of Assyria carried Israel away unto Assyria, and put them in Halah, and in Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes; because they hearkened not to the voice of the LORD their God, **but transgressed His covenant**, even all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and would not hear it, nor do it. —II Kings 18:11-12
(Cf. Hosea 6:7, 8:12, Psalm 78:10, Ez. 20:23-24)

That charge of idolatry disqualified the TT from the “**national**” priesthood designation and was to be in effect till “the latter days.”

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that **thou shalt be no priest to Me**; seeing thou hast forgotten the law/Torah of thy God, I also will forget thy children. —Hosea 4:6 (CF. Hosea 4:16,14:8-9)

God keeps His side of the **Covenant** and will regather all Israel to return to Him.

And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt bethink thyself among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, and shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and hearken to His voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul; that then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity.... will **return and gather thee** from all the peoples, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. And **thou shalt return and hearken** to the voice of the LORD, and do all His commandments which I command thee this day. —Deut. 30:1-8

Our part to have God's mercies extended to us is contingent on the caveat of confessing our great “**national**” sin. This confession of the **great sin** of the Ten Tribes is “the” key to regaining our national “lost identity” as Israel, i.e. “**the** people of the covenant.” It is the primary message from Moses and Hosea to the Ten Tribes.

And they shall **confess their iniquity**, and the iniquity of their fathers, in their treachery which they committed against Me, and also that they have walked contrary unto Me. I also will walk contrary unto them, and bring them into the land of their enemies; if then perchance their uncircumcised heart be humbled, and they then be paid the punishment of their iniquity; **then will I remember My covenant** with Jacob, and also My covenant with Isaac, and also My covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land. —Lev. 26:40-42

I will go and return to My place, **till they acknowledge their guilt**, and seek My face; in their trouble they will seek Me earnestly. —Hosea 5:15

That singular major **national** sin whose confession we are to proclaim to the returning Ten Tribes is:

Set the horn to thy mouth. As a vulture he cometh against the house of the LORD; because they have **transgressed My covenant**, and trespassed against My law [Torah]. —Hosea 8:1

Because we have lost our connection to the Covenant, we lost our very Covenant-based “self,” i.e. our **national** “identity” as “His people,” which we will need to re-inherit.”

And He said: 'Call his name Lo-ammi; for you are not My people, and I will not be yours.'
—Hosea 1-9

“Then shall I scatter you among the nations and disperse you among the lands and remove your contamination from you. Then you shall be caused to **re-inherit yourself** in the sight of the nations, and you shall know that I am HaShem.”

וְהִפְצִיתִי אוֹתָךְ בְּגוֹיִם וְזָרִיתִיךָ בְּאַרְצוֹת וְהִתְמַתִּי טְמֵאתְךָ מִמֶּךָ: **וְנִחַלְתָּ בְךָ** לְעֵינֵי גוֹיִם

וְיָדַעְתָּ כִּי-אֲנִי יְהוָה: —Ez. 22:15-16 (Stone Chumash, p. 1175)

What we, *the returning Ten Tribes of Israel* overall need to do is spelled out in the Prophets:

Return, O Israel, unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast stumbled in thine iniquity. —Hos. 14:2

That “return” is done by regaining our “lost” “Israelite”/national **identity** as **“people of the Covenant”** (Heb. Brit Am), and thusly step back unto the world stage as such.

I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and have taken hold of thy hand, and kept thee, and set thee for **a covenant of the people**, for a light of the nations; —Isa. 42:6

Thus saith the LORD: In an acceptable time have I answered thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee; and I will preserve thee, and give thee for **a covenant of the people**, to raise up the land, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; —Isa. 49:8

We are instructed on “how” to return starts with asking for forgiveness for this great sin.

Return, O Israel, unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast stumbled in thine iniquity. Take with you words, and return unto the LORD; say unto Him: 'Forgive all iniquity, and accept that which is good; so will we render for bullocks the offering of our lips. Take with you words, and return unto the LORD; say unto Him: 'Forgive all iniquity, and accept that which is good; so will we render for bullocks the offering of our lips. —Hosea. 14:2-3

Since we do not know how to turn/return/repent of this **national** sin, we are told to ask for Divine Assistance **to enable us to do so**. We have to acknowledge and do this:

O LORD God of hosts, **restore us**; cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.
—Psalm 80:20 (Cf. Psalm 80: 3,7)

The outcome will be the “healing” of our *divided heart*, i.e. our relationship with our God.

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely; for Mine anger is turned away from him.
—Hosea 14:5

Ephraim [shall say]: **'What have I to do any more with idols?'** As for Me, I respond and look on him; I am like a leafy cypress-tree; from Me is thy fruit found. **Whoso is wise, let him understand these things**, whoso is prudent, let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right, and **the just do walk in them**; but transgressors do stumble therein. —Hos. 14:8-9

And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and you shall be My people, and I will be your God. — Ez. 36:28, (Cf. Jer. 30:22)

This Scripture-based solution to foster a “workable unity” while allowing for differences of opinions is essential for brotherhood among the returning Ten Tribes factions. It will allow for discoveries made in the Scriptures when we can seek the Truth with Divine Guidance from many viewpoints. In that setting we need to regain our **common lost “Israelite” identity** and covenant-based relationship with the God of Abraham on the ancient paths of the Torah. There we find that we lost our *firstborn*, **“national” identity** as “Israel” because **we have cast away the national Covenant**. Therefore the path of return is to confess that **national sin** and **re-identify** ourselves in the Almighty’s Work as **“the returning Ten Tribes”** who are **oriented to “return to national Covenant.”** Let us unite in prayer about that, seek Divine confirmation and help to return to the **national Covenant** and get underway as such to a place we have never been. That place is unity under one brotherly identity of **“the returning Ten Tribes”** in one common quest, to **return to the Eternal Covenant** to our One God, besides whom there is none else.

Tags: covenant, return, Ten Tribes, lost Tribes, identity, confession, great sin, offence, unity, unifying, roots, idolatry, Hebrew Roots, Two House, Ephraim, healing, direction, orientation, national.

[NEXT](#)