

# Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of My Inheritance

## Lesson #17 Benjamin: Son Of My Right Hand

Recall: Rachel named him "son of my sorrow." Jacob renamed him "son of my right hand." Benjamin's behavior during the period of the Judges was as the ravaging wolf as Jacob had prophesied in Gen. 49:27. The Israelites turned against the tribe due to the evil and wickedness of some of the men of Gibeah. [Judges 19-21] When asked to turn over the guilty men, the Benjamites said: "Blood is thicker than water. We stand with the wicked men of Gibeah." Civil war ensued between Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. Only 600 men of Benjamin survived. The Israelites devised a plan to secure brides for the remnant of men so the tribe could begin anew.

### Israel Demands A King!

I Samuel 8:5 Israelites ask Samuel to appoint a king, saying, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

Note: God had predicted the Israelites would one day ask for a king.

Deut. 17:14-15 God said, "When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, 'Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,' BE SURE To Appoint Over You A King [ruler] The Lord Your God Chooses."

I Sam. 8:11-18 Samuel warns the nation of the responsibilities of having a king.

So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked him for a king. And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and The Lord Will Not Hear You In That Day."

a. God wanted Israel to know there would be problems connected with having a king.

In Israel's view, they had problems that would be solved by having a king. While those problems may have been solved, God wanted them to know a king would also *bring* other problems.

b. He will take . . . He will take . . . he will take . . . He will take . . . he will take . . . He will take . . . And you will be his servants: The Lord gives fair warning. If Israel wants a king they must realize he will be a taker not a giver, and they will be his servants.

I Sam. 8:19-20 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, <sup>20</sup> that we also may be like all the nations, and that OUR king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

Saul, a Benjamite from Gibeah, was anointed 1<sup>st</sup> King of Israel and reigned for 40 years. This surely surprised all of Israel. Even Saul himself was surprised when Samuel revealed it to him. I Sam. 9:21 And Saul answered and said, "Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?"

The Benjamites rose to a prominence never before experienced among their brethren. One of their own had ascended to the throne. It was a glorious moment of redemption for the tribe of Benjamin. A king from amongst its ranks would erase the blemish of previous sins. Note: Israel under a Benjamite carved out a powerful kingdom by the time of Saul's death. Question: Was God pleased with the Benjamites, or with Saul? No!

Civil War Emerges After The Death of Saul.

I Chron. 12:29 3,000 Benjamites defect from Saul's [Benjamite] camp to David where he is ruling from Hebron, the current capital of David's kingdom. [Rules there >7 years]

Ultimately Ish-bosheth is murdered by Benjamites, his own clansmen.

David assumes the leadership over All Of Israel and reigns another 33 years from Jerusalem.

FROM THIS POINT ON the Benjamites would remain loyal to the house of David. Leaders and officials in the reign of David and of Solomon would hail from the tribe of Benjamin. One of David's thirty "Mighty Men" was "Ittai, son of Ribai of Gibeah, of the sons of Benjamin".

Recall: David, from the tribe of Judah, had been anointed years earlier to be king, but God had been preparing and equipping David for the role. The time finally arrived for David to ascend to the throne. God removed the Benjamites out of that office and gave it to the tribe of Judah.

Question: What happened at the end of David's life? For the last 3 years of his life [67 to 70 years] He devoted himself to getting materials ready for Solomon, his son, to build the Temple. David also built up the area on the north side of Jerusalem on the threshing floor of Araunah. [I Chron. 22:14-16]

Note: David had been "a man of war and had shed blood." (I Chron. 28:2-3).

There is a ring of future redemption in Moses' prophecy.

The Prophetic Blessing of Moses Deut. 33:12 "And of Benjamin he said, 'The beloved of YHWH shall dwell in safety by him; and YHWH shall cover him all the day long, and he [God] shall dwell between his [Benjamin's] shoulders."

Benjamin, Judah, and the Temple The holiest spot in all Israel would be in the middle at Jerusalem. Out of that area would be the future government for the entire nation of Israel.

The Whole City Of Jerusalem fell within the area of Benjamin, not in Judah!

The Temple site was in the center of Jerusalem in the highlands, the shoulder lands.

The Temple of God was to be placed in the midst of the shoulder of Palestine.

Now go back to that prophecy of Deuteronomy 33:12.

Once we know what happened some 400 years after Moses, this prophecy becomes clear.

"And of Benjamin he said, 'The beloved of YHWH shall dwell in safety by him; and YHWH shall cover him all the day long, and he [God] shall dwell between his [Benjamin's] shoulders."

1. Where was God to dwell? At Mount Moriah in the Temple built by David's son, King Solomon.
2. What did Moses say in his prophecy? Eternal God would dwell in Benjamin.

This verse indicates God will protect Benjamin, and God resides "*between His shoulders*". The image is one of security, flanked by the shoulders of God, protected by His presence on all sides. It is a remarkable blessing, especially fitting for a tribe which would exhibit military prowess and put itself consistently in the line of fire for God Almighty.

Benjamin's Change: Previously, their behavior was all bad and evil in the extreme like Sodom and Gomorrah. It seems if you "personify Benjamin" from his birth, and view his growth as a tribe, and go to the very end of the New Testament, something happened to Benjamin at the time of King David. Something holy [Temple with God's Presence] was to be placed within the territory of Benjamin and they were to be associated with the holy thing. With the Temple built in Jerusalem in the shoulder of Benjamin, the whole tribe seemingly comes to conversion and a new attitude emerges. Henceforth you see blessing after blessing coming from Benjamites.

Question: Will Benjamin now fulfill his name's meaning: "the son of my right hand?"

Death of Solomon: A great squabble in Israel over the kingship.

1. Solomon's son Rehoboam apparently ruled over the whole nation at first.
2. An Ephraimite named Jeroboam, challenged Rehoboam to lessen the taxes King Solomon had placed on them. His young advisors encouraged him to Double The Taxes.
3. Jeroboam and the 10 tribes of Israel in the north revolted and established their own kingdom, Israel. Rehoboam retained control in the south, known as the Kingdom of Judah.

Interesting Note: Every advantage would have come to the Benjamites if they had followed the 10 Northern Tribes.

1. Their natural brothers are Ephraim and Manasseh. Their father is Joseph. [Double portion]
2. An Ephraimite [Jeroboam] will be king of the northern 10 tribes. [Natural - Flesh]
3. Benjamites turned their back on the natural and stayed with Judah. Type Of Conversion?
  - a. They abandoned their own family, their own brothers, [their flesh] to follow the one God had established in David, in Judah, a ruling dynasty to rule all of Israel forever.
  - b. The Temple was in their territory. God's presence is in the Temple.

From this time forward Benjamin stayed with the House of David. [dead to the flesh]

Jeroboam Took 10 Of The Tribes And Established His Own Kingdom.

Flashback: I Kings 11:28-30 Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

1. Prophet Ahijah wearing a new garment meets Jeroboam outside of Jerusalem in the field.
2. Ahijah tears the new garment was on him into twelve pieces.

I Kings 11:31-32 "And he said to Jeroboam, Take you ten pieces: for thus says YHWH, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to you: (But He Shall Have One Tribe for my servant David's sake [Judah], and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel)."

### Benjamin: Son Of My Right Hand

I. Benjamin a Light To Judah - 1 Tribe would go with Judah.

I Kings 11:34-36 "Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his [Rehoboam's] hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he [David] kept my commandments and my statutes: But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto you, even ten tribes. And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant May Have A Light Always Before Me In Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there."

I Kings 11:37-40 This prophecy said: Jeroboam was to rule 10 of the tribes. Benjamin was to go with David. The tribe of Benjamin was to be "a light always before me in Jerusalem."

Questions: Is the tribe of Benjamin to be the light to the House of David? Do they possess some redeeming traits to help David continually, help the Jews, and be a light for them?

Recall: The tribe of Benjamin had been purged of the evil [started fresh & anew] and prepared for the role that would be assigned to them by the Lord in the time of King Rehoboam.

I Kings 12:21-24 And when Rehoboam had come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen warriors, to fight against the house of Israel to bring the kingdom back to Rehoboam, son of Solomon.

But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, Tell Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah and all the house of Judah and Benjamin and the remnant of the people, Thus says the Lord, You shall not go up or fight against your brethren, the Israelites.

Return every man to his house, for this thing is from Me.

So they hearkened to the Lord's word and returned home, according to the Lord's word.

Fast Forward: Years later in the time of Jehoshaphat this light is still in Jerusalem.

II Kings 8:16-19 "And in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then King Of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign.

He reigned 8 years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: ... and he did evil in the sight of YHWH. Yet YHWH would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him alway a light, and to his children."

Fast Forward: The end of Judah's existence in the land of Palestine.

1. The northern kingdom of Israel had 9 dynasties ending with Hoshea, the last king of Israel. Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians around 721 BC.

2. Judah, centered at Jerusalem, lasted ~125 years longer before being taken captive to Babylon. Zedekiah was the last king of Judah.

Near the end of Jerusalem's and Judah's existence, a major prophet, Jeremiah [Benjamite], came on the scene. It seems he understood the prophecies concerning Benjamin, how Benjamin always seemed to be there for Judah.

In Jeremiah 6 he prophesies against the Jews and the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem. The Babylonians will come and take them captive unless they repent.

Jeremiah also has a prophecy for the children of Benjamin. What will happen to Judah need not happen to Benjamin if they will heed God! You can flee if you wish!

Jer. 6:1-5 "O you children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Bethhaccerem: for evil appears out of the north, and great destruction [from the Babylonians]. I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman. The shepherds with their flocks shall come unto her; they shall pitch their tents against her round about; they [the Babylonians] shall feed everyone in his place. Prepare you war against her [Judah and Jerusalem]."

The Benjamites did not flee. They continued to stay with Judah, as they stayed from the time of David onward. They were undoubtedly "a light" to Judah. When Judah was finally destroyed by Babylon, Benjamin did not abandon its role of being close to Judah for salvation sake.

In 586 BC the Babylonians laid siege to the city. After 4 months of starvation, the besieged city surrendered. The Babylonians invaded the walled city and destroyed the Temple.

The people of Judah and Benjamin were captive for 70 years in Babylon.

Cyrus the Great defeated Babylon and allowed the captives to return home. After 70 years a remnant returned under Zerubbabel to rebuild their lives and rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. [~536 BC] This was in the time of the Persian Empire. During this period an incident occurred in which almost Jews were threatened with complete and utter destruction by the wicked intrigues of a man named Haman. [~485-465 BC]

Esther and the Tribe of Benjamin: Esther and her Uncle Mordecai were in the king's court in Susa in Persia. An Amalekite, Haman, sought to have all Jews destroyed on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Adar. Every Jew in all 127 provinces of the Persian Empire was to be wiped out.

Mordecai presented Esther to the king who ultimately made her the Queen of Persia.

When Haman conspired to wipe out all the Jews, Esther was able to intercede

for the Jewish people. Esther 2:5-7 tells us she and Mordecai were both Benjamites.

The entire Jewish nation was saved by the strategy of 2 Benjamites.

Note: When Benjamin joined Judah, the House of David, back in the days of David, they joined over thoroughly and completely. They became a light to the House of David.

Note: Queen Esther was married to Ahasuerus the king of Persia. The Persians were Gentiles. The Benjamites dealt with Gentiles to save Judah some 400 years before the birth of Christ. The Jews still keep the yearly feast of Purim, which is about 30 days prior to Passover. This feast is to commemorate the saving of the Jewish people by Queen Esther & Mordecai.

Ezra led the 2<sup>nd</sup> group of remnants back to Jerusalem in 457 BC. [4 months journey]

Nehemiah led the third group in 444 B.C.

The Benjamites' role in this return to the Holy Land is seen in Ezra 1:5 "Then the heads of father's households of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites arose, even everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up and rebuild the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem."

The books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther cover approximately 100 years of history; dating from 536 - 432 B.C. The Benjamites were very influential during this transitional time. They remained a light to Judah, assisted in the rebuilding and establishment of God's House.

Ezra 10:9 all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered to listen to Ezra address them. He accused the Benjamites and men of Judah as straying from the commands of God, intermingling and marrying foreign women, and worshiping foreign gods. They had been unfaithful to God Almighty. Ezra urged them *"to make confession to the Lord God of your fathers"*, and He would prove faithful. The Benjamites and Judahites confessed their guilt before Ezra and God.

### The Call Of A Benjamite For The Whole World

Jesus Christ, of Judah and of David, was born into this world to be our Savior and King.

Saul of Tarsus, a Benjamite and fierce persecutor of Christians, was traveling to Damascus to apprehend Christians who acknowledged Jesus Christ as The Messiah.

He performed his task with great fury and zeal to imprison them, persecute and kill them. His behavior mirrored a ravaging wolf.

Benjamin and Paul On the road to Damascus he saw the vision of the Messiah. He asked, "Who are you?" The answer was, "I am Jesus whom you persecute." (Acts 9:5) I am the King of Judah.

Note: Saul was acting against the role of ancient Benjamin since the time they went with Judah and turned their backs on their natural brothers and upon power and prestige.

Saul was not being a light to the House of David in this case.

Saul's actions were killing the true descendants of the House of Judah and of David.

Christ said, "I am Jesus whom you persecute."

The apostle Paul in one instant was converted — converted from doing evil to doing right.

Upon his conversion Paul had turned his back on his brothers in one way. He turned his back on power and prestige. He turned his back on everything worldly that would have given him something in this world, and he started to follow the Christ, the Messiah.

Paul taught us of suffering before glory and the cross before the crown.

Acts 9:15 for this man is a chosen instrument of Mine to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the descendants of Israel; said, I will send you to Israel and I shall send you to the Gentiles. You are a chosen vessel of mine to do this (Acts 9:10-18).

In Paul we can see the "son of my sorrow" changed to "son of my right hand."

Paul ["Benjamin"] became a lamp to light the way for the Gentiles and the Church.

## Whose Tribe Was Used Mightily When Jesus Was On Earth ?

Jesus' disciples, with the exception of Judas, were from Galilee.

This is the region the tribe of Benjamin had settled after the Babylonian captivity.

The census is recorded in Neh. 11:31-35 The people of Benjamin also dwelt from Geba onward, at Michmash, Aiija, Bethel and its villages, At Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah, Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim, Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat, Lod, and Ono, the Valley of the Craftsmen.

During the time of Christ, the nation was divided into 3 main areas:

- (1) Judea in the south with the tribe of Judah
- (2) Samaria in the middle
- (3) Galilee in the north - inhabited by many from tribe of Benjamin - called Galileans

Consider: Jesus was a Jew of the tribe of Judah. [John 4:9; Rev. 5:5]

John 1:11 He came unto His own and His own received Him not.

The Jews of Judah rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah. The Galileans gladly received Him. Jesus spent much of his boyhood and the bulk of His 3 ½ years of ministry were in Galilee.

Rachel named him Ben-oni, "*son of my sorrow.*" His father named him Ben-yamin, "*son of my right hand.*" Prophetically speaking, they describe the two works of Christ.

1. Isa. 53:3 Jesus came first as "*a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.*"
2. Heb. 1:3 Then He ascended to the throne of heaven, where He sits on the right hand of God.

Benjamin: From Ravening Wolf To Son Of My Right Hand

1. He started with everything against him.

His early years mirrored behavior as a ravenous wolf and devouring its prey.

2. Their cities resembled Sodom and Gomorrah.
  3. A radical change occurred when the Temple [with God's Presence] was built in their territory.
  4. As a tribe they turned their back on the natural and became a light to the House of David.
  5. They were a continual "right hand" to David and Judah throughout history.
  6. When presented an opportunity by God to escape at the time of the Babylonian captivity, they remained loyal to Judah and were led captive to Babylon.
  7. During the captivity in Babylon, Judah received physical salvation through the tribe of Benjamin. [Esther & Mordecai] God used Benjamites to influence Gentile Persians.
  8. Through the salvation and call of the Apostle Paul [Benjamite], the whole world is blessed by one who was used by God to write 14 epistles of the New Testament.
- Paul was called to take the gospel to the Gentiles.

Benjamin's Tribe Has A Fulfillment Yet Future.

In Revelation 7:8 during the tribulation period, 12,000 men from Benjamin, along with 12,000 from 11 other tribes of Israel, will reach the world's population with the gospel.

The result will be a multitude of saved.

Rev. 7:9-15 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying:  
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,  
*Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

Another blessing for the tribe of Benjamin comes in the millennial kingdom when they will have a place in the land of Israel, along with a gate that has their name on it in the city of Jerusalem. (Ezekiel 48:32).

Revelation 21:12-13 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

What a glorious finish! What grace is this!