

ONE FROM BEYOND : HEBREW OF HEBREWS : PART 1

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Greetings brethren. As I was working on my series regarding the correct meaning of Psalm 83, the lesson took one of my not-so-uncommon tangents, and I found myself discussing the Patriarch Abraham and his Hebrew heritage. While just about everything that I am about to share in this article I have shared with my readers before, there is one point -- just a small, personal revelation which I believe the Lord gave me today -- that I have not shared before. This new Scriptural connection left me so inspired, that I was motivated to stop working on the aforementioned series, in order to share this information with you. I hope that you will find it as inspiring as I have.

We first find clear mention of the fact that Abraham was a Hebrew in the following verse that is found in the Book of Genesis:

"And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram."
Genesis 14:13, KJV

But the question is, exactly what does it mean to be Hebrew? As I point out in the article "The Book of Enoch: Truth or Heresy?", the word "hebrew" -- which is actually pronounced 'ib-ree' -- means "one from beyond". It is derived from the name Eber, or Heber, which means "the region beyond". The

Hebrews were also known as Heberites. But exactly who was Heber? We first learn about Heber -- who was the father of the Hebrews -- in the following verses which reveal the descendants of Noah's son Shem:

"These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood: And Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters. And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah: And Arphaxad lived after he begat Salah four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters. And Salah lived thirty years, and begat Eber: And Salah lived after he begat Eber four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters. And Eber lived four and thirty years, and begat Peleg: And Eber lived after he begat Peleg four hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters. And Peleg lived thirty years, and begat Reu: And Peleg lived after he begat Reu two hundred and nine years, and begat sons and daughters. And Reu lived two and thirty years, and begat Serug: And Reu lived after he begat Serug two hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters. And Serug lived thirty years, and begat Nahor: And Serug lived after he begat Nahor two hundred years, and begat sons and daughters. And Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terah: And Nahor lived after he begat Terah an hundred and nineteen years, and begat sons and daughters. And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees."

Genesis 11:10-28, KJV

If we simplify the previous genealogies, what we are left with is the following:

Noah
Shem
Arphaxad
Salah
Eber
Peleg
Reu
Serug
Nahor
Terah
Abraham (Abram)

Thus we see that by following the genealogies of the Book of Genesis, we can determine that while Abraham was a Hebrew -- having descended from Heber -- he was likewise a Semite as well, which is one of the three branches of the human family which survived the Flood. In other words, there are Semites, Hamites and Japhethites, as is revealed by these verses:

"And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth."
Genesis 5:32, KJV

"And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth."
Genesis 6:10, KJV

"And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood . . . In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark . . . And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark."
Genesis 7:7, 13, 21-23, KJV

"And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth. And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him:"
Genesis 8:15-18, KJV

"And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan."
Genesis 9:18, KJV

"Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood."
Genesis 10:1, KJV

"Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth."
1 Chronicles 1:4, KJV

"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."
1 Peter 3:20, KJV

In short, every single person on this planet has a direct genetic link to either Shem, Ham or Japheth, then to Noah and his wife, and from there, all the way back to Adam and Eve as well. In fact, I recall reading some time ago how even modern science has begun to recognize the chromosomal patterns which link us all to the first Human Pair.

Returning to our main topic of discussion, if we look at it from this perspective, and consider that the word "hebrew" means "one from beyond", it may be correct to say that in an ethnic sense, "hebrew" is not so much a racial term, as it is a descriptive term which describes one's place of origin, just as the word "Texan" does not imply a particular race, but rather someone who is from the state of Texas. From the perspective of the Canaanites, the Patriarch Abraham was indeed a stranger from "the region beyond", because as the following verses reveal, his place of origin was actually Ur

in the land of the Chaldees, which at that time was ruled by the Babylonian kings:

"And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. But Sarai was barren; she had no child. And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there."
Genesis 11:28-31, KJV

"And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it."
Genesis 15:7, KJV

"Thou art the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham;"
Nehemiah 9:7, KJV

While in the past I have sometimes referred to Abraham as a Babylonian -- being as he was from the Chaldean city of Ur -- I have now come to realize that referring to him as such may not be a totally correct description. The reason why I say this is simply this: As we have seen, Heber means "the region beyond". The question that entered my mind is why Salah -- his father -- would give him that name. Does it possibly imply that for several generations before Abraham was even born, his family of Semites had been traveling about as nomadic shepherds, and had eventually settled in Ur of the Chaldees?

If this is the case, exactly where was this "region beyond" located? What was the actual place of origin of the Hebrews, these "ones from beyond"? If you have read my article called "Noah's Ark and the Genesis Flood", then you may know that there are several good possibilities. These include northern Iraq, northern Iran, eastern Turkey, and Armenia. If you do not understand why this may be so, the answer is really quite simple. Following the Flood that occurred in the days of Noah and his three sons, the Bible informs us that the Ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat, as we see by these verses:

"And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged; The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained; And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat."
Genesis 8:1-4, KJV

The mountains of Ararat are located in the nation which we know today as Armenia, between the river Araxes and Lake Van and Lake Oroomiah. In fact, in the Bible, the original

word is translated twice as Ararat, and twice as Armenia; so it would also be proper to say "the mountains of Armenia". Consider these additional three verses:

"And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead."
2 Kings 19:37, KJV

"And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead."
Isaiah 37:38, KJV

"Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillers."
Jeremiah 51:27, KJV

It was from that point on the Earth that post-Diluvian man began to repopulate the entire world. In other words, maybe it was during the lifetime of Salah -- Shem's grandson -- that that branch of Noah's family began to migrate further away from the actual landing site of the Ark. Perhaps Salah did not want his descendants to forget the place of their origin -- and the miracle which God did at Ararat -- so he named his son Heber, meaning "the region beyond". In that way, no matter where they went, their very name -- Hebrews -- would be a constant reminder of their past, and where they had originated.

With the passage of time, Eber's branch of the family -- the Hebrews -- eventually migrated southward to the area that we know today as southern Iraq and Kuwait, but which in those days was the land of the Chaldees. Thus began Abraham's long trek to the land of Canaan from the city of Ur. God, in His Divine Knowledge and Foresight, already knew that the land of the Chaldees was only meant to be a temporary resting place for Terah, Abraham, Lot and the rest of their family. While Terah took Abraham and Lot as far as Haran in Padan-aram on the first leg of their journey to Canaan, upon Terah's death in Haran, it fell upon Abraham to complete the journey to the land of Canaan, as we see by the following verses:

"Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. But Sarai was barren; she had no child. And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran. Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy

father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came."
Genesis 11:27-12:5, KJV

Let us not forget that the Hebrews were shepherds who dwelt in tents. They were constantly on the go. Whenever an area could no longer support their herds, they had to move on. It was a rough life, but it was the life that God had chosen for them. Furthermore, we need to remember that in the beginning after the Flood had occurred, leading the life of a nomadic shepherd was also a very necessary and practical way of life, because not only did Noah's family need to eat, but they also had to repopulate the Earth with animals as well. Ironically, many years later, when Jacob and his family arrived in the land of Egypt, while Joseph served as a mediator between the Pharaoh and Jacob's family, the Egyptians actually viewed shepherding as a lowly, filthy occupation, as we see by the following verses:

"And Joseph said unto his brethren, and unto his father's house, I will go up, and shew Pharaoh, and say unto him, My brethren, and my father's house, which were in the land of Canaan, are come unto me; And the men are shepherds, for their trade hath been to feed cattle; and they have brought their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have. And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation? That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians."
Genesis 46:31-34, KJV

I will have more to say regarding the Patriarchs living in tents in the final half of this article. There is so much more to why God had them do this.

To my knowledge, all of the previous information is for the most part Biblically and historically accurate. I say for the most part, because we don't have a clear record regarding how the Hebrews actually came to be in the city of Ur in the land of the Chaldees. Thus, I have made a few assumptions based on what we do know.

It was at this point, after contemplating the significance of the word 'ib-ree' -- or Hebrew -- and its meaning of "one from beyond", that I believe that the Lord's Spirit blessed me with one of those special revelations that so excite and inspire me now and then. This revelation came in the form of the following verses which immediately entered my mind after I explained how the Hebrews may have arrived in the city of Ur in the land of the Chaldees:

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

Hebrews 11:8-16, KJV

If there is one thing which I have learned from studying the Scriptures over the years, it is that names are important in the Bible. If, as I do, you make it a regular practice of using Hebrew and Greek lexicons as you read the Bible and conduct your studies, you will quickly discover that every name has a special significance which is either related to something about a person's appearance, or their character, or possibly an important event that occurred, or something else. Thus, in my view, it is clearly no mistake that Shem's grandson Salah chose to name his son Heber, and that Heber's descendants became known as the Hebrews. This is a name that has survived for literally thousands of years, while others have disappeared in history. Surely, this can only be by the Lord's Design.

While I theorized that Salah may have named his son Heber so that his descendants would never forget their past, and where they had come from -- that is, from "the region beyond", or the mountains of Ararat -- in light of the verses that I just shared with you from the Epistle to the Hebrews, I have begun to wonder if perhaps I have been looking at it in reverse. In other words, perhaps Salah was actually a real visionary who had his mind, not on the past, and on what had already been, but rather on the future, and on the Heavenly Vision of much more glorious things to come. Perhaps during all those long, quiet years of shepherding his flocks, Salah perceived the realities of the Spirit World, and our temporary condition upon this planet. By naming his son Heber, perhaps it was his desire to impart that same forward-looking Heavenly Vision to his descendants, the Hebrews. He wanted to remind them that they were from beyond, and not truly of this Earth.

Because they embraced the Heavenly Vision, they were able to endure so many things during the years that they walked this Earth. Their unwavering faith in the Promises of God, and the many trials which they were forced to endure, are clearly revealed in the eleventh chapter of the Epistle to

the Hebrews, and are summarized in the verses which follow:

"And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."
Hebrews 11:32-40, KJV

Please take special note of the final verse above which says:

"God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."
Hebrews 11:40, KJV

Do you fully understand what that verse means? As I explain in other articles, the word "perfect" is not referring to some sort of imaginary state of human perfection, as certain people would have you to believe. Derived from the Greek word "teleioo" -- which is pronounced tel-i-o'-o -- it actually means to make complete, to complete, add what is yet lacking in order to render a thing full, to bring to the end or to accomplish. In other words, what the writer of the Book of Hebrews is actually saying, is that until the remainder of the Saints join their ranks in Heaven, God's Work will not be complete, and the assigned number of predestinated, chosen and saved persons will not be complete. That we are indeed predestinated and chosen for this purpose, is revealed in the following verses:

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you . . . If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."
John 15:16, 19, KJV

"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."
Matthew 20:16, KJV

"For many are called, but few are chosen."
Matthew 22:14, KJV

"And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh

should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."

Mark 13:20, KJV

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."

Acts 13:48, KJV

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29, KJV

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love . . . Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will . . . In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

Ephesians 1:4-5, 11, KJV

"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"

2 Thessalonians 2:13, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

James 2:5, KJV

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 Peter 2:9, KJV

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

Revelation 17:14, KJV

Wow! Aren't those inspiring verses? So tell me; are you also "one from beyond"? Are you a true Hebrew of the Spirit? Do you realize that you are just a nomad in this current world, and that it is not your true home? Do you look forward to going to your true Home in Heaven? Or are you so shortsighted that you have allowed Satan -- who is the false god of this current evil world -- to blind you, and to rob you of your spiritual vision, so that you only have your eyes set on the temporal things of this materialistic world alone? Consider the following verses:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

Ephesians 2:2, KJV

"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:"

Ephesians 4:18, KJV

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

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ONE FROM BEYOND : HEBREW OF HEBREWS : PART 2

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We Are Not Of This World, This World Will Never Satisfy Us, Keep Your Mind On The Eternal And Not On Temporal Things Of This World, Why Patriarchs And Ancient Hebrews Were Nomads Dwelling In Tents, God Did Not Require King David To Build A Temple, God's Desire To Dwell In The Temple Of Our Hearts, King Solomon's Deep Slide Into Apostasy, United Kingdom Of Israel Rent From Solomon's Son Rehoboam, Israel Became An Abomination To God, We Are Spiritual Nomads Upon The Earth, Our Bodies Are The Temples Tabernacles And Tents Of God's Spirit, We Are All Living Stones In God's Spiritual House, Our Coming Resurrection Bodies, Unbelievable Mansions In Heaven, Forward-Looking Heavenly Vision, Remain Firm On The Path Of Life With Your Eyes On Jesus, The Apostle Paul Was A Hebrew Of Hebrews, Run The Race With Patience, Crown Of Life

Trust me when I say that, just like the Patriarchs and the Saints of old, we are truly not of this world. We are like spiritual gypsies who are traveling on the road to Eternal Life; a road which will eventually lead us to a much better

place in the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, nothing in this current world will ever truly satisfy our hearts and spirits. Wealth, fame, prestige, a great job, an abundance of physical possessions, a sexy girlfriend; it is all meaningless, and merely the unsatisfying enticements of the god of this world, who seeks to ensnare us in his deceptive trap. Consider the following verses:

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
Matthew 6:24, KJV

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."
John 15:19, KJV

"And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."
1 Corinthians 7:31, KJV

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."
2 Corinthians 4:18, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"
2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
Colossians 3:1-2, KJV

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:"
1 Timothy 6:6-14, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

The fact that the ancient Patriarchs were traveling nomads and shepherds who dwelt in tents should not be overlooked; because it is a clear reflection of our own spiritual status upon this Earth. Even the Ark of the Covenant was originally carried about and kept in a tent -- the Tabernacle -- and God was quite happy with that. As I explain in "Revelation's Babylon the Great", at the time that King David petitioned the Lord to build a Temple in His honor, the king was living in a cedar home, while the Ark of the Covenant was still kept in a tabernacle, or tent. Thus, while David's intentions were good in wanting to build a Temple to house the Ark, as we read in the following verses, this was not what the Lord wanted done. In fact, He questioned David regarding why he wanted to build a Temple when the Lord had never required it of him:

"Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?"

2 Samuel 7:5-7, KJV

It is rather clear from the above verses that the Lord only wanted to dwell in the midst of the people; that is, in the Spiritual Temple of their hearts. He wanted to be a living God to the Israelites, and not a dead god who is bound by time and place in a physical structure, as was the custom of the heathen nations. It is also quite evident to me that the Lord purposely wanted to impress upon the ancient Hebrews -- the "ones from beyond" -- that this world was not their home. By having them live in tents, and travel about with their herds, He ensured that they did not become too attached to this present world and all of its materialistic enticements. After all, one can only carry around so much on camels and mules.

As I likewise explain in such articles as "The Psalm 83 War False Doctrine Exposed!", once the ancient Israelites did settle down in Canaan, once they demanded that the Prophet Samuel provide them with an earthly king -- Saul -- just like the heathen nations around them, once they began to establish their own cities and towns, once they began to acquire more physical possessions, that is when they really began to slide into deep apostasy. In reality, they had already been having

such problems from the time that they were liberated from Egypt; but just the simple fact that they stopped moving and living in tents, and began to depend more on themselves than on the Lord, only made the rate of their apostasy increase. Is it any surprise then that by the time King Solomon reached old age, he had begun to worship the false gods of the nations around them? Consider these verses:

"But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen."
1 Kings 11:1-13, KJV

In the very next chapter of the First Book of the Kings, we discover exactly what mechanism God used to fulfill the above prophecy. Upon King Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam rose to the throne of Israel. He would be the last king to rule over a united Israel for many centuries to come. In reading chapter twelve, we discover that the mechanism which God used to bring about His Divine Decree concerning Israel, was tragically the youthful foolishness of the young king, as is clearly revealed in the following verses:

"And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;) That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying, Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will

serve thee. And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed. And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people? And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever. But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him: And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter? And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day. And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat. So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents. But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day."

1 Kings 12:1-19, KJV

Please notice in the previous verses that we are told that "the cause was from the LORD". In other words, God actually put it in Rehoboam's heart to make such a foolish mistake, because He had already decreed that the kingdom was to be rent from Rehoboam, due to his father Solomon's blatant sin of disobedience and backslidden condition.

This is just one example of how bad the situation became in Israel, after the ancient Hebrews -- or Israelites -- forsook their nomadic life in tents, settled down, and became just as materialistic and self-satisfied as the world around them. In articles such as "The Fruits of Disobedience" I go into quite a bit of detail regarding how the Lord was forced to deal with His backslidden children time and time again -- quite often by raising up enemies against them -- and yet they never seemed to learn for very long. Prior to the destruction of Solomon's Temple by the forces of Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar, the

Lord issued this stinging rebuke through the mouth of the Prophet Jeremiah:

"And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination."
Jeremiah 2:7, KJV

To reiterate what I stated earlier, the fact that the ancient Hebrews traveled about as nomads and shepherds who dwelt in tents should not be overlooked; because it is a reflection of our own status upon this Earth. Just like them, we must also recognize that we are spiritual nomads upon this Earth, and that this planet is not our final resting stop, destination or home.

Furthermore, as I also mention in such articles as "The True Tabernacle of God", we are told in the Scriptures that our physical bodies are the temples and tabernacles -- or tents -- within which God's Spirit resides. This message is so very clear in the Bible, yet so many people are either ignorant of this wonderful fact, or else they purposely choose to ignore it, because they prefer to build their cold, dead churches, temples and mosques. Not only does God's Word inform us that our bodies are the temples of His Spirit, but it also reveals to us how someday we will abandon this weak tabernacle of the flesh, in order that we might inhabit a body very similar to that of Jesus Christ Himself. The Apostle Paul refers to it as "our house which is from heaven", as we see by the verses below:

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."
2 Corinthians 4:7, KJV

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him."
2 Corinthians 5:1-9, KJV

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their

God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."
2 Corinthians 6:16-18, KJV

"Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me."
2 Peter 1:13-14 KJV

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"
1 Peter 2:5-9, KJV

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"
Romans 6:4-5, KJV

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."
Romans 8:29, KJV

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."
Philippians 3:21, KJV

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."
1 John 3:2, KJV

"There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual

body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

1 Corinthians 15:40-52, KJV

It should be clear to you then that we have a higher calling in Heaven, where God the Father and the Lamb have prepared wonderful things for us which we cannot possibly even begin to imagine. You must be "one from beyond" -- a Hebrew of the Spirit -- who has grasped the Heavenly Vision, in order to even begin to understand these marvellous truths. As is written:

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

John 14:2-3, KJV

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9, KJV

So tell me; like the Patriarchs of old, and the Saints of old, are you a true Hebrew of the Spirit? Do you truly have the forward-looking Heavenly Vision? Are you looking beyond this current life? Do you have your feet set firmly on the Path of Salvation? Are your eyes looking directly ahead upon Jesus Christ who is the Author and the Finisher of our Faith, and who will lead us to our final goal and destination? May you be greatly encouraged by the following verses:

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

Hebrews 12:1-3, KJV

"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor

to the left: remove thy foot from evil."
Proverbs 4:25-27, KJV

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."
Matthew 7:13-14, KJV

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."
Psalms 16:11, KJV

"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day . . . Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established."
Proverbs 4:18, 26, KJV

One man in particular who clearly was a Hebrew -- or "one from beyond" -- and who grasped the forward-looking Heavenly Vision, was the Apostle Paul. In fact, in his Epistle to the brethren at Philippi, Paul outright declares that he is a "Hebrew of the Hebrews". He was clearly looking beyond this current life and was running the race with patience, as we see by the following verses:

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown: but we an incorruptible: I therefore so run, not as uncertainly: so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."
1 Corinthians 9:24-27, KJV

"Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."
Philippians 2:16, KJV

"Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee . . . Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:5, 13-14, KJV

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."
2 Timothy 4:6-8, KJV

Like Paul, are you also running the race with patience? Do

you have your eyes set upon the goal? Brethren, His reward is in His hand, and He is ready, willing and able to give it to you, but the prize is only given to the winners. But be glad, because we are all more than winners and conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord. He has already run the race Himself, and He knows the enemy's tricks, traps, dangers and pitfalls; so please keep your eyes on Him, and finish your course with patience and perseverance, and you will not be ashamed. You will reap if you faint not. Consider these inspiring verses:

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33, KJV

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."
Romans 8:37, KJV

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
Galatians 6:9, KJV

". . . be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."
Revelation 2:10b, KJV

"And, behold, I come quickly: and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."
Revelation 22:12, KJV

With these inspiring verses, I will bring this article to its conclusion. I trust that it has been an inspiration, as well as a blessing in your life. Allow me to recommend that you also consider reading my companion article entitled "The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?". If you have enjoyed this article, I encourage you to share its link with all of your online friends. Also, if you have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would very much appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you as you obey His Will for your life!

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