

JAMES & THE TWELVE TRIBES

James 1:1 JAMES, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Modern breakdowns:

Ashkenazi / im: Jews of Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Russia (primary in USA) / spoke Yiddish

Sephardic / im: Jews of Spain, Mediterranean Rim (North Africa) / spoke Hebrew, Spanish, Turkish

Mizrahi / im: Jews of Iraq / Iran

Racists in the USA call Jews white!

Hitler killed 6 million Jews because they:

- Were not white
- Could not become white

What do we find?

1. There were twelve tribes!

JAMES (Ἰάκωβος), a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Acts 7:1-7

Acts 7:8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: **and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob (Ἰακώβ); and Jacob (Ἰακώβ) begat the twelve patriarchs.**

2. The ten tribes were not lost!

James 1:1 JAMES, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, **to the twelve tribes** which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2 Kings 17:1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years. **2 Kings 17:2** And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, **but** not as the kings of Israel that were before him.

2 Kings 17:5 Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. **2 Kings 17:6** In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

Facts:

- Israel split into two kingdoms in 930 BC
- Israel was then conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BC
- Israel was carried into captivity
- Israel was no longer a nation state
- Israelites were not lost or forgotten
- Israel shall be restored

Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, **That I will make a new covenant With the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah;** **Jeremiah 31:32** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers In the day that I took them by the

hand To bring them out of the land of Egypt; Which my covenant they brake, Although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

Jeremiah 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, And write it in their hearts; And will be their God, And they shall be my people. **Jeremiah 31:34** And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: For they shall all know me, From the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: For I will forgive their iniquity, And I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, And the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, Which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

Jeremiah 31:36 **If** those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, **Then** the seed of Israel also shall cease From being a nation before me for ever. **Jeremiah 31:37** Thus saith the LORD; **If** heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, saith the LORD.

Revelation 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four

thousand of **all the tribes of the children of Israel**. **Revelation 7:5** Of the tribe of **Juda** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the

tribe of **Reuben** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Gad** were sealed twelve thousand. **Revelation 7:6** Of the tribe of **Aser** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Nephtalim** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Manasses** were sealed twelve

thousand. **Revelation 7:7** Of the tribe of **Simeon** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Levi** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Issachar** were sealed twelve thousand. **Revelation 7:8** Of the tribe of **Zabulon** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Joseph** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Benjamin** were sealed twelve thousand.

Revelation 21:12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, **which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:**

Revelation 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

3. Twelve tribes in the diaspora!

James 1:1 JAMES, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to **the twelve tribes** which are **scattered** abroad, greeting.

(ταῖς δώδεκα φυλαῖς

ταῖς ἐν τῇ διασπορᾷ,

χαίρειν.)

Thoughts:

- James was writing **from Jerusalem**
- James was writing **to** the 12 tribes
- Specifically, those **in** the diaspora

διασπορά = literally a sowing of seed | a scattering of seed

so: Diaspora / Dispersion

- **Twelve tribes scattered because of sin**

Leviticus 26:33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Deuteronomy 4:27 And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you.

Deuteronomy 28:64 And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

4. Twelve tribes known in James's day

James 1:1 JAMES, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Acts 15:21 For Moses of old time hath in **every** city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues **every** sabbath day.

Acts 13:4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. **Acts 13:5** And when they were at Salamis, **they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews:** and they had also John to their minister.

Acts 13:14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, **and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day,** and sat down. **Acts 13:15** And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

5. Twelve tribes including some messianic Jews & Jewish communities / churches.

James 1:1 JAMES, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, **greeting**.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. **Acts 2:5** And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. **Acts 2:6** Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

Acts 2:7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? **Acts 2:8** And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? **Acts 2:9** Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, **Acts 2:10** Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

Acts 2:11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. **Acts 2:12** And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

6. Twelve tribes James served as a servant of God & the Lord Jesus Christ!

James 1:1 JAMES, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, **greeting (χαίρειν)**.

Acts 15:23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send **greeting (χαίρειν)** unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

Acts 23:26 Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix sendeth **greeting (χαίρειν)**.