

America: The New Jerusalem-According to Herbert W. Armstrong

The gentleman you just watched in the video link was minister Herbert W. Armstrong who died in 1986. Armstrong was a firm believer in the literal interpretation of biblical scripture complemented by the practice of searching out historical confirmation through secular sources. This habitual rigor in investigative methodology placed him at the forefront of biblical scholarship. I am going to briefly lay out the cogent & brilliant analyses that led him to conclude it was the English speaking territories of Great Britain &, later, America that fulfilled the great-nation promise God bestowed upon Abraham, father of the Israelite people. Let's begin by reviewing the promises as they were written:

And I will make of thee a great nation, & I will bless thee, & make thy name great;
& thou shalt be a blessing:

3-And I will bless them that bless thee, & curse him that curseth thee:
& in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:2-3

And the Lord said unto Abram....Lift up now thine eyes,
& look from the place where thou are northward,
& southward, & eastward, & westward:

15-For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, & to thy seed forever.

16-And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth:
so that if a man can number the dust of the earth,
then shall thy seed also be numbered.

Genesis 13:14-16

In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying,
Unto thy seed have I given this land,
from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.

Genesis 15:18

And I will make my covenant between me & thee,
& will multiply thee exceedingly.....
my covenant is with thee, & thou shalt be a father of many nations....
....& kings shall come out of thee.

Genesis 17:6

And I will establish my covenant between me & thee
& thy seed after thee in their generations
for an everlasting covenant,
8-And I will give unto thee, & to thy seed after thee,
the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan,
for an everlasting possession;
& I will be their God.

Genesis 17:7-8

There was a final promise given to Abraham, but not until he passed his ultimate test of faith in God which was to offer his son Isaac as a living sacrifice. The greatness of Abraham's faith was additionally tested by the fact that Isaac was

Abraham's only child of promise. Fortunately, as most of you know, in the very the moment Abraham raised his knife to complete the sacrificial act an angel of the Lord prevented him & instead bestowed the following blessing:

....in blessing I will bless thee,
& in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven,
& as the sand which is upon the sea shore;
& thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;
18-And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;
Genesis 22:17-18

Interestingly, in most future biblical events whenever God gave a blessing he also gave a curse-a blessing if the recipient remained a faithful servant & a curse for betrayal. In the case of Abraham, however, after passing a life-long series of admittedly horrendous tests, God provides a final blessing that was wholly UNCONDITIONAL. It was a promise meant to be kept regardless of the comportment of future generations. One of these unfettered promises was: '...in thy seed shall ALL the nations of the earth be blessed.' Truly, the only people that could possibly account for having blessed 'all the nations (or families) of the earth' would have to have been the predominantly Anglo-Saxon race of Great Britain that migrated to the New World & ultimately established the constitutional ideology of the United States of America, what we proudly refer to as the 'Great Experiment'.

America=I Am Care

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me:
I lift my lamp beside the golden door....

Abraham was the first father of the Israelite nation & the nation of Israel was God's first family on the earth. Therefore, the blessings bestowed upon him by God constitute a first-born birthright given to Abraham & his lineage. These were the words God told Moses to speak to Pharoah:

....Thus saith the LORD,
Israel is my son,
even my firstborn:
23-And I say unto thee,
Let my son go, that he may serve me:
& if thou refuse to let him go,
behold, I will slay thy son,
even thy firstborn.
Exodus 4:22-23.

However, Abraham also received a priestly blessing. In the book of Genesis there is a brief description of an encounter with Melchizedek, High Priest & King of Salem. ('Salem' was an early name for Jerusalem.) They met as Abraham was returning home from having won a critical military battle. While at first glance the

event appears to be of little scriptural importance, it was in fact a critical pre-familial initiation for the coming of the Messiah.

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread & wine:
And he was the priest of the most high God.
19-And he blessed him, & said, Blessed be Abram of the most high
God, possessor of heaven & earth:
20-And blessed be the most high God,
which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand.
And he (Abraham) gave him tithes of all.
Genesis 14:18-20

No further Biblical information is provided on the matter until centuries later when David wrote prophetically about Christ in the Psalms:

The Lord has sworn, & will not repent:
'Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'
Psalm 110:4

How do we know David was in fact speaking about Christ? It is because the apostle Paul clarifies the issue extensively in his letter to the Hebrews. What we learn is that Melchizedek gave Abraham & his lineage the divine 'scepter', meaning an eternal kingship line. If you haven't familiarized yourself with this biblical topic, I strongly encourage you to do so. For now let's examine the generational pathways taken by both of these divine blessings.

Abraham begat Isaac who in turn begat Jacob (the younger) & Esau (the elder). Esau being in the eldest son was in first position to receive both Abraham's birthright from God & the Melchizedek's blessing. However, Esau foolishly sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of soup after returning from a hunting expedition. Moreover, years later, Jacob used illicit means to also rob Esau of the priestly blessing. (These events have established a generational feud that continues to this day that I will address shortly.) Jacob went on to father 12 sons. However, one of the sons, Joseph, was not counted as an individual tribe. Instead, his 2 children, Manasseh & Ephraim were included in the count, bringing the total to 13 tribes.

Path of the Blessing:

The kingship inheritance given by Melchizedek to Abraham
passed through the bloodline of Jacob's son Judah.
Generations forward, David, from the Judean lineage became king of Israel.
It was through the Davidic line
that the sceptre was passed 700 years later to Christ.
Today the Messiah is called our High Priest-King in the order of Melchizedek.
(For more information on this topic please refer to
The Messiah's Lineage in Letters2.)

Path of the Birthright:

God's promised blessings to Abraham that were passed down to Jacob
& then on to Jacob's grandson, Ephraim, who was the son of Joseph.

For Judah prevailed above his brethren, & of him came the chief ruler,
but the birthright was Joseph's (Ephraim's).
1Chronicles 5:2

- 1478: The Spanish Inquisition is established, empowering the Roman Catholic church to torture & crucify those suspected of heretical behavior. 'Heretics' included anyone having in possession copies of biblical text as well as those who practiced a 7th day Sabbath. This grave period of human misery continued until the early 1800's. Hundreds of thousands courageous, God-fearing people were tortured & killed for their faith.
- 1600's: European colonists, mostly from England, migrated to the New World. Many Christian Reformationists & Jews escaping religious persecution under Roman Catholic hegemony were among them.
- 1770's: 13 British colonies were fully established.
- 2013: With the exception of Israel, the United States continues have the most vibrant religious culture on the planet. We've sent more missionaries around the globe to spread the gospel than any other nation.
- Jacob and his sons re-locate from Caanan to Goshen outside of Egypt during a famine.
- Jacob's lineage increases dramatically in size & abundance over the years.
- A new pharaoh is intimidated by the growth of Jacob's numbers & decides to enslave the Hebrew population, forcing them to work on the building of his cities.
- 430 years after Jacob's relocation to Egypt God rescues the Hebrews from their captivity.
- A system of judges (the Sanhedrin) is established by their leader, Moses, to handle disputes. 40 years later the Hebrews begin to battle for the land God gave them in Caanan.
- About 500 years after leaving Egypt the people demand a king in place of the Sanhedrin.
- The first king is appointed, Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin.
- Saul disobeys God's instructions & loses his crown. David, from the tribe of Judah becomes king & wins God's favor.
- God promises David that the eternal kingship would pass through his seed. Solomon, David's son, becomes king & builds God's temple.
- Upon completion of the temple God gives Solomon a blessing & a curse.
- Solomon disobeys God by marrying 700 'strange' women & worshipping their gods. He, therefore, incurs God's curse.
- God promises to rend the kingdom from Solomon's son Rehoboam, with the exception of one tribe, the tribe of Judah.
- When Rehoboam becomes king God has his prophet ordain a rival king, Jeroboam, from the tribe of Ephraim.
- Jeroboam travels north of Judea with 10 tribes of Israel & establishes a new capital city in Shekam, later moved to Samaria.
- Jeroboam is fearful that his newly established kingdom will weaken if his people are tempted to return to Jerusalem in order to to honor God's holy days. His solution is to build 2 golden calves for the people to worship instead.

- God tolerates the pagan practices of the Northern tribes for about 2 centuries.
- God allows the Assyrian Empire (modern day Germany) to invade 10 northern tribes of Samaria, disseminating the Israelite culture by scattering them throughout the vast empire. The Israelite dispersion & loss of identity is called the diaspora. The 10 Northern tribes NEVER returned to Israel.
- About 120 years after the Assyrians invaded Samaria, King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon invades Jerusalem. All Judean nobility, including the male children of their king, Zedekiah, are killed & Zedekiah himself dies a blinded Babylonian prisoner. Those Jews Nebuchadrezzar does not kill are taken in chains to Babylon where they remain for 70 years.
- Close to the end of the 70 year captivity the Medo-Persians invade & conquer Babylonia.
- The Medo-Persians are kind to the Judean people & permit some of them to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple that had been burned during Nebuchadrezzar's attack. Thus, while many remained assimilated throughout the Medo-Persian Empire, a small segment (10%) of the tribe of Judah was able to return to Jerusalem & preserve its identity & heritage. These are the people we call Jews today.

What follows is a more detailed outline of just how the great-nation blessing was relocated from Jerusalem to America:

At this point it's necessary to review the promise God gave to King David concerning the eternal scepter.

And thine house & thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee:
thy throne shall be established forever.

2Samuel 7:16

I have made a covenant with my chosen,
I have sworn unto David my servant,
Thy seed will I establish forever, & build up thy throne to ALL generations.

Psalms 89:3-4

For thus said the Lord; If ye can break my covenant of the day
& my covenant of the night,
& that there should not be day & night,
& that there should not be day & night in their season;
21-Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant,
that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne....

Jeremiah 33:20-21

What Dr. Armstrong focused on when investigating the Israelite migratory patterns was the fact that God promised David He would establish his throne to ALL generations. Armstrong examined the scriptures never doubting that they provided that God meant what He said-that the Davidic kingship line would be unbroken in any given generation. But how was this possible given the fact that

Zedekiah died in chains & that all of his sons were slaughtered? He found the answer in the book of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah was a prophet enlisted by God to warn Judah that Jerusalem would be brutally invaded if they failed to repent of their sins. Needless to say, Jerusalem did not repent & the invasion went forward. However, Jeremiah's commission was broader than that of mere watchman.

Then the Lord put forth his hand, & touched my mouth.
And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.
10-See, I have this day set thee over the nations & over the kingdoms,
to root out, & to pull down, & to destroy, & to throw down, to build, & to plant.
Jeremiah 1:9-10

Most theologians accept that the kingship line of Judah ended with the Babylonian conquest & will resume with the 2nd coming of Christ. As we see, however, this interpretation does not justify the commission of Jeremiah. Certainly God had ordained the invasion prior to Jeremiah's enlistment. Still, God told him that he would be 'set over nations & kingdoms' (plural) & would 'root out, pull down, destroy, throw down, build & plant'. Evidently, Jeremiah's greatest role followed the invasion. He was authorized to preserve the kingship line in an alternate location. But how & is it documented? For the sake of efficiency I will bullet Armstrong's reasoning.

- The Judean kingship had passed to King David from Judah through his son Pharez.
- Pharez had a twin brother, Zarah.
- The descendants of Zarah had allied themselves with the 10 tribes that had defected from Jerusalem to Samaria under the kingship of Reoboam. They too were carried away during the Assyrian invasion of Samaria. Through historical investigation, Armstrong found that many of these descendants of Zarah had at some point relocated to the British Isles, some even prior to the invasion of Samaria, & had assumed positions of leadership. Nevertheless, God had to keep his promise to David.
- While King Zedekiah's sons were killed in the invasion of Jerusalem, his daughters survived. (see Jeremiah 43:5-6).
- The solution to maintaining the royal lineage while continuing to fulfill God's promise was for the daughters of Zedekiah to marry male descendants from the line of Zarah. Ancient historical records describe a Hebrew princess, Tea Tephi, who married the Irish prince of Zarah at about 569 BC. His name was Herremon. This Irish Dynasty continued unbroken until it migrated to Scotland & then migrated, yet again, to England. Today Queen Elizabeth II continues the legacy.

The shifting of the kingship line from Jerusalem to Ireland, then Scotland, then again to Great Britain was prophesied in the book of Ezekiel:

Thus said the Lord God;
remove the diadem, & take off the crown:
this shall not be the same:

exalt him that is low, & abase him that is high.
27-I will overturn, overturn, overturn it:
& it shall be no more,
until he come whose right it is;
& I will give it him (Christ).
Ezekiel 21:25-26

According to Armstrong there exists an abundance of ancient historical texts in the British Isles to substantiate his scriptural interpretation. In fact, he claimed to have good reason to believe that the location of Jeremiah's grave is in Ireland. He also suggested that an aristocratic working alliance existed between the tribes of Judah & Ephraim as evidenced by the British Coat of Arms. The Hebraic symbol of the House of Judah was a lion wearing a crown, while that of Ephraim was a unicorn. The British ensign is a lion wearing a crown & a unicorn. Whodda thunk it?!!!

The birthright given to Ephraim to build a great nation was only temporal. Certainly America can no longer claim to be the towering beacon of light she once was. Most will agree that this country won't fare very well when measured against the plumbline of divine justice. However, the Abrahamic scepter was given for ALL ETERNITY. (Psalm 110:4)

There's one more important consideration. It has to do with the fact that the people who know themselves to be Jews today are those descendants of King David who in turn were descended from Judah's son, Pharez. These descendants constitute the portion of the House of Juda that was taken into Babylonian captivity for a 70 year interim after which they returned to rebuild the temple & the city of Jerusalem. The return of Christ will re-establish the kingship through this line exclusively. Do you see a powerful conflict of interest with the Zarite British Crown?

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