



RESOURCE

Parashah: Vayigash = And He Came Near
Genesis 44:18-47:27; Ezekiel 37:1-28; Ephesians 2:1-22

TITLE: ONE HOUSE, TWO HOUSE CONTROVERSY

WHAT IS THIS?



Jacob's twelve sons became the nation of Israel, as numerous as the dust of the earth and the stars of the sky. They were to be a blessing to all the people of the earth. The tribes of Judah and Levi brought forth Messiah Yeshua, Melchizedek High Priest and King—but Jews don't recognize Him, Christians don't understand Him, and the world prefers other gods. The lost ten tribes also blessed the earth by surviving incognito and being helper nations when various people tried to wipe out the Jews. Much as Joseph saved his family by being the right man in the right place to provide food during the famine, so a large number of people from the northern tribes saved the whole family by accepting and propagating the biblical Scriptures after Yeshua lived, died, and was resurrected.

1 + 1 = 2 ► TWO HOUSE THEOLOGY

- Isaiah 8:14 tells us that “for both houses of Israel He will become a Rock one stumbles over—a trap and a snare for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.” We take this “He” to be Messiah Yeshua, whom Jews reject and Christians follow but not with full understanding.
- One house is “Judah” plus the tribes of Levi and Benjamin who went with them into Babylonian captivity. They returned along with a few others, only to be subdued later by the Romans.
- One house is “Israel” aka “the ten tribes” associated with Joseph's son Ephraim that were taken captive by Assyria because of their idolatry. They assimilated into the nations and have not yet returned. One sect of two-house theology assumes only physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are included but another sect thinks they became the Church or Christians.
- Both houses think of themselves as the possessor of the truth that Elohim gave us in the Scriptures, but they see that truth in different ways. Both are incomplete. The nation of Israel will not be whole until both houses come into agreement with Elohim about their Messiah.

1 + 1 = 1 ► ONE HOUSE THEOLOGY VARIATIONS

- All of the people from the lost tribes who returned to Israel intermarried with those who were still in the land, thus joining the one remaining house which everyone refers to as “the Jews.”
- The lost tribes are lost permanently and have never tried to return en masse, so their house has ceased to exist—leaving only one house. Some believe that Elohim has declared they will never return.
- Only “Jews” should have access to the covenant Elohim made with Israel, so any “Gentiles” who try to “become Jews” are simply trying to make themselves appear Jewish. Some of this is no doubt a reaction to British-Israelite teachings.
- Replacement Theology holds that the Church has replaced Israel as God's people so there is only one house and everyone, including Jews, must join them.
- Anyone and everyone who seeks to love and obey Elohim has been grafted into the one and only house of Israel that He has been creating since the beginning of time, so there is no need to distinguish between Jews and Gentiles. We are “one new man” in Messiah.

IT'S ALL SEMANTICS

The story of how Jacob's family came to be divided into two kingdoms is told in 1 Kings 11 and 12. Essentially it was Elohim's idea because He had to punish King Solomon for idolatry, so after his death the nation was divided between his son Rehoboam (who got to keep Judah for King David's sake) and Jeroboam (who got to take the ten northern tribes which were called Israel). 1 Kings 11:39 says, “...I will humble David's descendants—but not forever.” Judah is the kingly tribe, but what is a king without his people? Eventually, under King Yeshua, the people of Israel will return and become “one in His hand.” So, yes, there are technically two houses right now but there really is only one house that Elohim has been building since the very beginning—and one joins it by choice!

RESURRECTION SOLVES THE CONTROVERSY

The main disagreement is about who owns the land that Elohim gave Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Canaan took it from Shem and people have been fighting over it ever since. A case can be made for it finally being given to Israel while we are still in the flesh, but it will definitely be given to Israel in the Millennial Kingdom after the Resurrection.