



[2 Kings 17:6](#)

(6) In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River and in the towns of the Medes.

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When the Assyrians conquered the [northern ten tribes of Israel](#) and dispersed her population in the lands beyond the Euphrates, only the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin remained in the Land of Promise. Though the house of Judah had not yet forsaken Him, [God](#) began to raise up [prophets](#) to warn the southern kingdom that she was headed for the same fate as her sister Israel.

Through these prophets, particularly Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Hosea, God gives us directions by which we can find where Israel lives in the last days. Remember, all the following directions must be understood from the vantage point of Jerusalem.

[Jeremiah 3:12](#): "Go and proclaim these words **toward the north**, and say: 'Return, backsliding Israel,' says the LORD."

[Jeremiah 3:18](#): "In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together **out of the land of the north** to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers."

[Jeremiah 31:8](#): "Behold, I will bring them **from the north country**."

When Jeremiah prophesied—about a century *after* Israel went into captivity—Israel lived to the north, and even in the end time, the Israelites will still live primarily in the north. North alone, however, could be rather vague, so God adds more detail:

[Hosea 11:10](#): "They shall walk after the Lord. He will roar like a lion. When

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He roars, then His sons shall come trembling **from the west.**"

[Hosea 12:1](#): "Ephraim [the leading tribe of Israel] feeds on the wind, and pursues the east wind [the east wind travels **west**]." This scripture implies that Israel migrated westward. Though this verse has a primarily spiritual meaning, its value as a clue to Israel's whereabouts is confirmed by

[Isaiah 49:12](#): "Surely these shall come from afar; look! Those **from the north and the west.** . . ."

A line stretching from Jerusalem to the northwest cuts through much of Europe from Greece to the North Sea. Where along this line should we look for Israelites? We know that the line of [David](#) would continually rule over some part of the house of Israel ([Jeremiah 33:17](#)).

[Psalm 89:20, 25](#): I have found My servant David. . . . Also I will set his hand **over the sea.**"

David's dynasty would rule over a sea power somewhere to the north and west of Jerusalem.

[Jeremiah 31:10](#): "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it **in the isles afar off**, and say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him.'"

[Isaiah 49:1, 3](#): "Listen, O **coastlands**, to Me, and take heed, you peoples **from afar!** . . . You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified." (See also [Isaiah 41:1](#), 8-9.)

Israel, headed by Ephraim, would inhabit islands and coastlands far from Jerusalem. This seems to eliminate any of the Mediterranean nations; they would be considered "near" to Jerusalem rather than "afar off." Now we are looking for a nation, dominating on the seas, living on islands and coastlands in the area of the North Sea. Are there any other clues?

[Jeremiah 31:7](#): "For thus says the LORD: 'Sing with gladness for [Jacob](#), and shout **among the chief of the nations**; proclaim, give praise, and say, "O LORD, save Your people, the remnant of Israel.'"

In the end time, Israel is regarded as among the leaders of the world's nations. This narrows our search considerably. Yet, one bit of evidence still remains:

[Genesis 49:22](#): "Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; *his branches run over the wall.*"

[Isaiah 49:20](#): "The children you will have, after you have lost the others, will say again in your ears, '*The place is too small for me; give me a place where I may dwell.*'"

These verses hint very strongly at colonization of other lands because of burgeoning population and prosperity. Though many nations have colonized other lands in the past, only the nations of northwestern Europe have done it to a great extent.

Do any nations fit all these criteria? Only one: Britain! We should be able to find Israelites, primarily of the half-tribes of Joseph, the birthright tribes, in Britain.

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

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