

The Two Sticks

One of the most beautiful prophecies of the reunion of the two houses of Israel is the "two sticks" prophecy in Ezekiel 37:15-20. In this prophecy each of the two houses of Israel are symbolized by two "sticks" which are brought together and made as one (Ezek. 37:15-18). Specifically the Stick of Joseph is brought over and joined to the Stick of Judah (Ezek. 37:19).

Take Hold

In Zech. 8:23 we read that ten men from all of the languages of the Gentiles would take hold of "him that is a Jew" and say "we will go with you: for we have heard that Elohim is with you."

The Olive Tree

The olive tree parable (Rom. 11:16-24) parallels the two "sticks" prophecy of Ezek 37 (the word "stick" in Ezek. 37 is ETZ which also means "tree"). Rom. 9 begins the contrast of the "Jews" and "Gentiles" by quoting Hosea 2:25(23); 2:1 (1:10) in Rom. 9:25-26. But if we look up the context of the people "which were not my people" which he calls "my people" in Hosea we find that they are the "children of Israel" (Hosea 2:1 (1:10)) as opposed to "the children of Judah" (Hosea 2:2 (1:11)) So if Paul is quoting Hosea in context and contrasting Jews and Gentiles (Rom. 9:24) using Hosea 2:1-2 (1:10-11) then the "Jews" of Rom. 9:24 are the "Children of Judah" of Hosea 2:2 (1:11) and the "Gentiles" of Rom. 9:24 are the "children of Israel" of Hosea 2:1 (1:10). If this is true then as this contrasting pair advances into Rom. Chapter 11 the two trees are the two Houses. The uncultivated olive tree in Rom. 11 is clearly Ephraim and the cultivated olive tree is clearly that of Judah. Branches from the tree/stick of Ephraim will be broken off and grafted into the tree/stick of Judah, are to be fed by the root of Judah and are not to boast against the natural branches (Jews)."

Walking as He Walked

Yeshua commissioned his disciples to "... teach all the Gentiles and immerse them... and teach them to observe all that I have commanded you," (Matt. 28:19-20)

If we say we are in Messiah, we should conduct ourselves as he conducted himself (1Jn. 2:6), Messiah conducted himself as a Jew. Paul said we should follow him as he follows Messiah (1Cor. 11:1) although Paul never identified himself as a "Christian" but as Jewish (Acts 21:39; 22:3; 23:6) and of the Sect of the Nazarenes (Acts 24:5, 14).

Becoming a Jew

In the book of Numbers we read:

From the top of the rocks I see him,
And from the hills I behold him:
Behold it is a people (AM) that shall dwell alone,
and shall not be reckoned among the nations
(GOYIM)
(Num. 23:9)

In fact one major difference between these two Hebrew words for “people/nation” is that AM can refer to Israel but GOY refers to the OTHER nations. GOY is the word which can also be translated “Gentile”.

In Ester 8:17 we learned that many non-Jews in the Persian empire “became Jews” in the wake of the events of the first Purim.

As Ruth declared:

For where you go, I will go;
And where you lodge, I will lodge,
your people (AM) will be my people (AM)
and your Elohim my Eohim.
(Ruth 1:16b)

Ruth stopped being a Gentile and became part of the AM (people) which are not to be counted amongst the GOYIM (gentiles).
She became a Jew.

What Can You Do?

Take hold of him that is a Jew and learn Torah.

Be grafted into Judah, be fed by the root of Judah and do not boast against the natural branches.

Seek to become part of the people who are not to be counted among the Gentiles. Seek to become a Nazarene Jew.

As you continue to study, you will learn more of the Torah.

Next visit time for Discussion 6:

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BEING GRAFTED INTO JUDAH STUDYGUIDE 5

