

Good Figs and Bad Figs in the Middle East: Saga of the Disobedient Judahites

by Steve Barwick

Both Kenites (i.e., bloodline children of Cain) and true bloodline Judahites ended up in Jerusalem in 1948. But how did they both end up there together? A closer look at Jeremiah 24 tells the tale that most Bible students miss...

We've often been taught that there are both "good figs" and "bad figs" in the Middle East land of Israel today. And Jeremiah chapter 24 is usually given as the reference for this teaching.

That's where God gave the prophet Jeremiah a vision of two baskets of figs set before His temple in Jerusalem -- one basket containing "very good figs" (i.e., symbolizing true Judahites) and the other basket containing "very evil figs" (i.e., symbolizing the sons of Cain pretending to be Jews). As it's written:

Jer 24:1 The LORD shewed me, and, behold, two baskets of figs were set before the temple of the LORD, after that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and the princes of Judah, with the carpenters and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon.

Jer 24:2 One basket had very good figs, even like the figs that are first ripe: and the other basket had very naughty figs, which could not be eaten, they were so bad.

Jer 24:3 Then said the LORD unto me, What seest thou, Jeremiah? And I said, Figs; the good figs, very good; and the evil, very evil, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil.

So way back in Jeremiah's time, in Jerusalem, at the temple of God, there were both true Judahites *and* false Jews (i.e., Kenites) in that Middle East land of Israel. We know that to be true from Jeremiah 35:1-4 where God ordered Jeremiah to bring the Rechabites – a well-known branch of the Kenites (I Chron. 2:55) – right into the house of the Lord in Jerusalem for a very specific one-time-only purpose.

What's more, we know this was *still* the case over 1,000 years later, during Christ's first advent on this earth, as both true Judahites and false Jews were among the people in Israel at that time.

For example, Christ's own half-brothers – St. James and St. Jude – were obviously *true* Judahites. But in John chapter 8 Christ soundly chastised the false Jews of Jerusalem, and revealed that they were trying to kill Him. Then, in verse 44, He exposed them as being of their father the devil, meaning they were not Jews at all, but were instead sons of the first murderer, meaning Cain, the offspring of Satan.

But some 37 years after the time of Christ, in 70 A.D., the people of Israel were pretty much dispersed by the Romans after their destruction of Jerusalem. And the Jews – true and false alike – were driven out. So how did both false Jews and *true* Judahites end up back in the Middle East

land of Israel after the year 1948 when the “fig tree” nation was re-established under the influence and direction of the Rothschilds?

The Spread of Christianity

Here’s the Biblical and historical answer, as I best understand it. Bear with me for a moment while I first give you a little bit of critical historical background information:

Shortly after the crucifixion of Christ, but *before* the Roman destruction of Jerusalem, the news of Christianity began to spread gradually from Israel to other parts of the world. This is clearly evidenced by the very first verse in the book of James, in which he wrote to the “twelve tribes scattered abroad.”

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

As you can see, St. James – Christ’s half-brother, and the elder spokesman for Christianity in Jerusalem -- wrote to *all 12 tribes* “*scattered abroad*” (i.e., a term meaning “distributed throughout foreign lands”).

This means there were members of the tribe of Judah among those Israelites who no longer resided in the land of Israel at that time. After all, Judah is indeed one of the “12 tribes of Israel.”

So it was not just the so-called “10 lost tribes of Israel” who had been “scattered abroad” into foreign lands, but members of *all twelve tribes*, which by definition would include the tribe of Judah.

Over the long course of time the members of *all 12 tribes* living in foreign lands outside of the Middle East nation of Israel received that Gospel message, along with subsequent missives on good Christian living such as the letter mentioned above which was written by St. James to the “twelve tribes scattered abroad.”

This spread of the Gospel message to foreign lands began the process of converting God’s scattered people Israel from the long-corrupted religion of Judaism to the new *reality* of Christianity.

As the Gospel message travelled from the land of Israel to the “12 tribes scattered abroad,” God put “a new Spirit” upon His scattered People, as promised in Ezekiel chapters 11, 18 and 36. That was the *Spirit of conversion*. The old corrupt way of the religious traditions of man being promulgated by the false Jews would give way to the Salvation Plan of God. As it’s written:

Eze 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

Eze 18:31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Eze 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

So over time these scattered tribes of Israel – including members of the tribe of Judah -- living in foreign lands began to embrace Christianity as they came to understand that the Messiah had indeed come to Israel and had fulfilled the Scriptures (Psalms 22; Isaiah 53, etc.) in giving His life on that cross for the sins of many.

Some Never Converted

But it's also clear from history that some true Judahites among the 12 tribes who were scattered abroad *never* converted to Christianity.

I believe that was largely because of the influence of the Kenites (sons of Cain) living among them. It's important to keep in mind that wherever true Judahites go in this world, they will have Kenites hunkering down among them, pretending to be Jews.

Our Lord and Savior Himself warned of the blasphemous influence of these false Jews in Revelation 2:9 and 3:9. And in Jude 1:4, St. Jude warned of "certain men crept in unawares" among God's People, who seek to corrupt those around them and who can very easily be identified by their incessant denial of Christ. As it's written:

Jude1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

So we can look back through history and see that some true Judahites were influenced by the Kenites (sons of Cain) to remain fixated on the corrupt religion of Judaism. And as a result they *never* converted to Christianity even as the Gospel message spread throughout the world.

What's more, I believe the Bible clearly *identifies* these true Judahites who failed to convert to Christianity. And in just a moment, I'll show you *where* in the Scriptures I believe that identification is specifically given.

But it's important to understand, first, that over the long course of time after the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, the bulk of true Judah living in foreign nations did indeed convert to Christianity, as the Gospel message went forth and God gave them that "new spirit" of conversion.

It's clear from history and from archaeology that large parts of Christian Germany, Ireland, Scotland and Britain had great numbers of the members of the tribe of Judah living among them. I believe these were in large part the descendants of the true Judahites who had *obeyed* God back in the time of Jeremiah the prophet, and had gone into captivity in Babylon for 70 years.

These obedient Judahites later emerged from that long, 70-year captivity, when the forces of the Medo-Persian empire came pouring in to Babylon and conquered it. We know from the Bible that at that time a very small group of true Judahites returned to the Middle East land of Israel under Ezra and Nehemiah to rebuild the temple. But history and archaeology demonstrates that the bulk of the tribe of Judah followed after the footsteps of their brethren, the so-called “10 lost tribes” and migrated northward.

Indeed, after the Babylonian captivity ended, these no-longer-captive Judahites migrated north over the Caucasus Mountains, or sailed up the coastlines of the Mediterranean Sea to Italy, France and Spain, and then through the Straits of Gibraltar to the Atlantic Ocean and up the coastline to Britain, Ireland and Scotland.

That’s why, after the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior, the beloved St. James would write his epistle to “the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad” (i.e., dispersed among the nations). He knew there were members of all twelve tribes (including Judah) living in foreign lands. And he wrote to them that New Testament letter of instruction we now call the book of James, or more accurately, the epistle of James.

So it was not just the members of the so-called “10 lost tribes” who gradually, over the centuries, migrated into and inhabited western Europe. Members of the tribe of Judah – *true* Judah -- migrated there as well.

After all, the royal line of Judah lived (and still live) in both Scotland and Ireland, where Jacob’s Pillar Stone, that great Stone of Destiny, had been taken at God’s behest by the prophet Jeremiah, along the Judahite daughters of king Zedekiah.

There was also (and still is today) Judahite royalty in Spain and in Germany as well -- not to mention in Britain, where the royal throne of David resides to this day. So it’s clear that true Judah was spread throughout western Europe, along with all of the other tribes of Israel.

Obedient Judahites v/s Disobedient Judahites

But here’s the Biblical clincher that I believe helps us understand why *some* true Judahites, though given the Gospel message, never converted to Christianity:

In Jeremiah 24:8-9, which we’ll examine in a moment, our heavenly Father likens the *obedient* Judahites who obeyed His command to go into Babylonian captivity to “very good figs.” And He likens the *disobedient* Judahites (who refused to obey Him and go into Babylonian captivity) to “very evil figs.”

What’s more, our heavenly Father states in those passages that He would scatter the *disobedient* Judahites throughout the world "for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them."

Let’s look at what God says about the *obedient* Judahites, first. As it’s written:

Jer 24:5 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good.

Jer 24:6 For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up.

Jer 24:7 And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

Again, our heavenly Father likens the *obedient* Judahites who were carried away into Babylonian captivity as “good figs.” That’s because they obeyed His command to go into captivity to Babylon for 70 years.

And He says in the verses above that He’ll acknowledge (i.e., *respect*) their obedience to Him and make their captivity work out to their good. He says He’ll eventually bring them back to the land of Israel (i.e., at Christ’s Second Advent). And He’ll give these obedient Judahites “an heart to know Me,” meaning, prophetically, they’d ultimately become Christians through that spirit of conversion.

Now sharpen up because here’s what we came for, i.e., the fate of the *disobedient* Judahites:

Jer 24:8 And as the evil figs, which cannot be eaten, they are so evil; surely thus saith the LORD, So will I give (i.e., ascribe) **Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his princes, and the residue of Jerusalem, that remain in this land, and them that dwell in the land of Egypt:**

Jer 24:9 And I will deliver them to be **removed into all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them.**

Jer 24:10 And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers.

God says that the *disobedient* Judahites who refused to obey His command to go into captivity in Babylon for 70 years, but instead dug in their heels and tried to stay in Jerusalem, or who fled to Egypt to escape the captivity, are considered by Him to be like the “evil figs” Jeremiah saw in his vision. In other words, God considers these disobedient Judahites to be *like* the sons of Cain, i.e., the Kenites.

Look at the Scriptures above carefully. These Judahites were *not* Kenites. They were *true Judahites*. But they were so thoroughly disobedient to God and His Word that he *likened* them to Kenites (i.e., “evil figs”).

God said He'd punish them by driving them out of the land of Israel, as well as out of the land of Egypt where some of them were hiding from the Babylonian armies. He said they'd be "removed into all the kingdoms of the earth." And He said it would be "for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse."

And sure enough, throughout history we've seen the persecution of these disobedient Judahites take place throughout the world, thanks largely to their own disobedient nature (i.e., rejecting Christ and holding onto the corrupt religion of Judaism) and to the deleterious influence of the Kenites (i.e., evil figs) living among them.

Those Who Converted v/s Those Who Didn't Convert

That's why I believe those true (but thoroughly *disobedient*) Judahites in the Middle East land of Israel today are the ones who never converted to Christianity when the Gospel message was later spread to God's scattered people throughout western Europe and eventually around the world. They clung to the corrupt religion of Judaism, just like the Christ-hating Kenites who dwelt (and still dwell) among them.

But the *obedient* Judahites who had gone into captivity to Babylon for 70 years as God had commanded, and who later followed after the so-called "10 lost tribes" and migrated into western Europe, are the ones who converted from Judaism to Christianity as the precious Gospel message reached them.

Although the Gospel message went to *all* of God's scattered Israelite and Judahite peoples throughout the world, God did not give the *disobedient* Judahites that promised spirit of conversion, which is to say, that "new spirit" He had promised in Ezekiel chapters 11, 18 and 36.

And why not? Because they refused to cast away their transgressions. They remained obstinate and disobedient. And again, I must point out that I believe this was largely because of the "evil fig" Kenite influence among them. That's why God *likened* them to the "evil figs" in Jeremiah 24:8-10 above. They lived like evil figs, so God essentially *counted* them as evil figs.

So while these disobedient Judahites were definitely of *true* Judah by bloodline (and thus are "good figs" by bloodline), they remained fixated on the religion of Judaism instead of converting to Christianity. They *preferred* the spirit of disobedience, so God has let them wallow in it all of these years, generation after generation, as He essentially promised in Jeremiah 24:9 above.

But the obedient Judahites who went into Babylonian captivity as commanded by God, and who later migrated into Western Europe, are the ones who, upon hearing the Gospel message, received the Spirit of conversion from God, rejected the corrupt religion of Judaism and enthusiastically embraced Christianity. So today they're neither good nor bad figs, but instead...*Christians*.

After 1948

After 1948, many of the *disobedient* Judahites who had been scattered by God throughout Europe and other parts of the world followed the Kenites and went back to the Middle East land of Israel to help re-establish the nation of Israel.

But the obedient Judahites who had converted to Christianity remained largely within the western Christian nations.

This is why it's taught that there are both "good figs" and "bad figs" planted in the Middle East land of Israel to this very day, which is to say, there are indeed true bloodline Judahites mixed in with the false Jews – children of Cain – living in that fig tree nation. The true bloodline Judahites living among the children of Cain remain disobedient to our Father's Word. But they are nevertheless true Judahites.

Their Salvation

Yes, ultimately, even the disobedient Judahites who live among the Kenites will be saved, during the Millennium teaching period. For as it's clearly written in Romans 11:26, "all Israel will be saved." And by definition, that includes all of Judah.

But until that promised Second Advent of our Lord and Savior, the *disobedient* Judahites living among the Kenites will continue to be likened to, and treated as "evil figs" by our heavenly Father.

They remain to this day "a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse" throughout the world, as they allow the Kenite false Jews to make their nests among them wherever they might reside.

You Asked For It, You Got It

I've taught many times over the years that our God is a "You asked for it, you got it" kind of God. If you want to be intransigent and disobedient to Him, He'll plant you among the intransigent and disobedient people of this earth (i.e., the evil figs). And if you want to be faithful and true to Him, He'll plant you among the faithful and true people of this earth.

And that's why there are indeed some *true* (albeit thoroughly disobedient) Judahites among the Kenite false Jews who returned to Israel in 1948 when the fig tree nation was planted.

So through Scripture we can discern that our heavenly Father counts these true (but disobedient) Judahites as "evil figs" because throughout history – from the time of Jeremiah forward – they've *acted* like the evil figs (i.e., the Kenites) in their disobedience toward Him.

And because of their disobedience, He scattered them throughout the world, just as He told them He would in Jeremiah 24:9-10 above. But it was to their hurt instead of their good. He essentially destined them to be with the Kenites in the Middle East land of Israel when the planting of the fig tree took place in 1948, and the final generation of this flesh earth age was ushered in.

And that sheds a little bit more light onto the parable of the fig tree as taught by our Lord and Savior in Matthew chapter 24. As it's written:

Mat 24:32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

Mat 24:33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Mat 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

In 1948 members of true Judah who had not converted to Christianity, along with members of the Kenite clans, would indeed be planted back into that fig tree nation – the Middle East land of Israel. And the final countdown to Christ's Second Advent would begin at that time.

And when the time finally arrives, God will separate these true Judahites from among the false Jews. And through the Millennium teaching process He'll bring them back into His barn (i.e., into His eternal family household) and will burn the unrepentant tares so there is no more evil influence among God's People.

-- End --

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