

The Answering Service

FROM AMERICA'S PROMISE

Answers to questions from Radio and Tape Listeners

No. 9 - Jan 15, 1981

Question No. 1:

Why did the Judeans not associate with the Samaritans? Were not the Samaritans Israelites? If not, what was the genetic relationship?

Answer:

Samaria was the capital city of the 10-tribed House of Israel, during the time of the divided kingdom, before the captivities. It was built by king Omri of Israel, and, thus, the Assyrians called Israel by the name *Beth-Khumri* ("House of Omri").

In 724 B.C., Shalmanezar began the siege of Samaria, and the city fell to his successor, Sargon, three years later. The Assyrians deported 27,280 people from the city, as almost all of them had already been deported earlier. Even so, many of the Israelites were left behind.

Sargon settled many colonists from Babylonia and Hamath (**2 Kings 17:24**), and his grandson, Esarhaddon, and later monarchs continued this policy by introducing Elamites into the land, as well. Thus, they had an "integrated society."

During this time the foreign colonists, who were idolators, decided that the local gods of the land were unfavorable to them, so they requested that an Israelite from the Assyrian captivity come and teach them the ways of their God. The result was a curious mixture of idolatry and the Law of Moses. (They rejected the writings of the prophets, accepting only the Law of Moses.)

These were the people that the Judeans found in the land two centuries later, when they returned to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. When Ezra and Nehemiah would have nothing to do with those who had intermarried and those who had a mixed religion, the conflict began between the Judeans and these "Samaritans," as they came to be called. One of the Samaritan governors, Sanballat (**Neh. 2:10**) opposed the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. He, later, built the Samaritan temple on Mt. Gerazim. Their doctrines did not differ greatly from that of the Judean Sadducees of Christ's day.

So to answer your question, the Judeans did not associate with the Samaritans, because of their conflict, recorded in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Some of the Samaritans, at least, originally, were of Israelite stock, being "leftovers" from the Assyrian captivity. However, as time passed, there would have been fewer and fewer of them who remained unmixed, especially since those who could prove their pure Israelite genealogy, were welcomed into the Judean community.

Question No. 2:

Were Galileans, also, referred to as Judeans, or were they distinctly separate?

Answer:

Galilee was a province in northern Palestine that had been settled by the

tribe of Benjamin after the Babylonian captivity. The Judahites settled in the southern part of the territory, eventually forming a province called "Judea." The term "Galilean" is purely a geographical term, since there is no "tribe of Galilee," as is with Judea (Judah). Jesus was a Galilean by geography, according to **Luke 23:6**, because He lived in Galilee. However, by genealogy, He was a Judahite.

On occasion the term Judean ("Jew") is used in the Old Testament sense, where it includes Judah, Benjamin, and Levi, who were of the southern House of Judah. Thus, we find in places like **Romans 1:16** that the term Judean includes the Galileans, (Benjamites) as well as, the Judeans. Usually, however, the word Judean is used to distinguish that person from a Galilean or Samaritan.

Question No. 3:

Were the Rothschilds Jews? How did they get so powerful that they controlled nations and gave money to Lenin in support of communism?

Answer:

Yes, the Rothschilds are Jews. Stephen Birmingham's book: *Our Crowd—Great Jewish Families of New York* states on pages 24 and 25 (speaking of another Jew, August, Schonberg): "He wanted to make money. At thirteen he went to Frankfurt — it is likely that he ran away from home — and went to work as an unpaid apprentice for the Rothschilds, the leading Jewish banking house in Europe."

The house of Rothschild (ie., "Red Shield") became powerful through banking, which gave them the right to create money. But, they always had to be somewhat fearful that this right to create money would be taken away from them by

the monarchs of Europe or by the people themselves. Thus, they decided it was in their best interests to gain absolute power over the people and governments. (Of course, they had always sought to gain power over us.) For further reading into the way they financed communism and took over Russia, see *Behind Communism*, by Frank Britton.

Question No. 4:

I didn't see it in the Bible, but I heard it said that the yellow race will rule the world. Is this true?

Answer:

No matter what race or religion you study, you will find that almost all of them believe that theirs will some day rule the world. It is rooted in the age old argument: whose god is the most powerful? It has always been assumed that the most powerful and prosperous people is the one who has the most powerful god. To put it another way, each god has its own "chosen people," who worship that god, and the chosen people of the most powerful god will eventually rule the world.

The religion of Christian Israel is no exception. The name "Israel" means *ruling with God*. When God married Israel at Mt. Sinai, He gave her authority over His household (creation—see **Psalms 104**). The main difference between our God and foreign gods in this matter is that our God will not allow His wife to misrule His creation. Thus, as long as Israel is in violation of His Law, God does not expect the other nations to concur in her sin and be obedient to her self-made laws. That is why God has turned most nations against us today.

To answer your question directly, the Bible does not teach that the yellow race will rule the world, for the God of Israel did not marry them.

Question No. 5:

I am confused about the time of Joel. Would you explain Joel 3:10, "Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears." Why were farm tools to be changed into implements of war?

Answer:

The context of this verse shows us that this is speaking of the future time, when Israel would be invaded at the end of the age. In ancient times, there was often a shortage of metal suitable for manufacturing armaments, so the people would often have to melt down their farm tools and then fashion them into implements of war. Since farm tools were so important to an agricultural society, this shows just how urgent was the need to arm the nation against the enemy..

We have such a situation today, where America has been disarmed. I don't know if we will ever have to melt down our tractors to build missiles, but the point is that the Bible says in the latter days, Israel would be in urgent need of military equipment.

I might add, too, that **Joel 3:10** should be read along with **Isaiah 2:4**, "And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

This prophesies a time when Christ would be in rulership over the earth, and there would be no more war. Only under the rulership of Christ can we safely disarm and put our efforts back into production of real wealth, rather than into military hardware.

Question No. 6:

I would like to know what the Bible has to say about cremation after death. I know of friends and relatives who have expressed preference for cremation of their bodies. Is this contrary to God's Law?

Answer:

There is no specific passage prohibiting cremation, nor is there any command to practice it. However, in all Bible records of the, disposition of the body of an Israelite, it was by burial.

The Canaanites burned children in fire as an offering to Baal. God condemned Israel for joining in such a terrible practice.

In Jesus' time, all were buried, except that criminals were burned in the garbage dump, called gehenna (translated "hell" in the KJV). Jesus warned believers to avoid *gehenna*, meaning not to sin and have their bodies burned.

Also, many pagan religions practice cremation, which alone would warrant our being opposed to it.

With these many arguments against cremation, and no positive Bible command for it, we conclude it is God's will that Israelites be buried.

The fact that some are burned will have no effect on the resurrection. Even the sea will give up its dead on resurrection day, for which we praise Jesus Christ.
