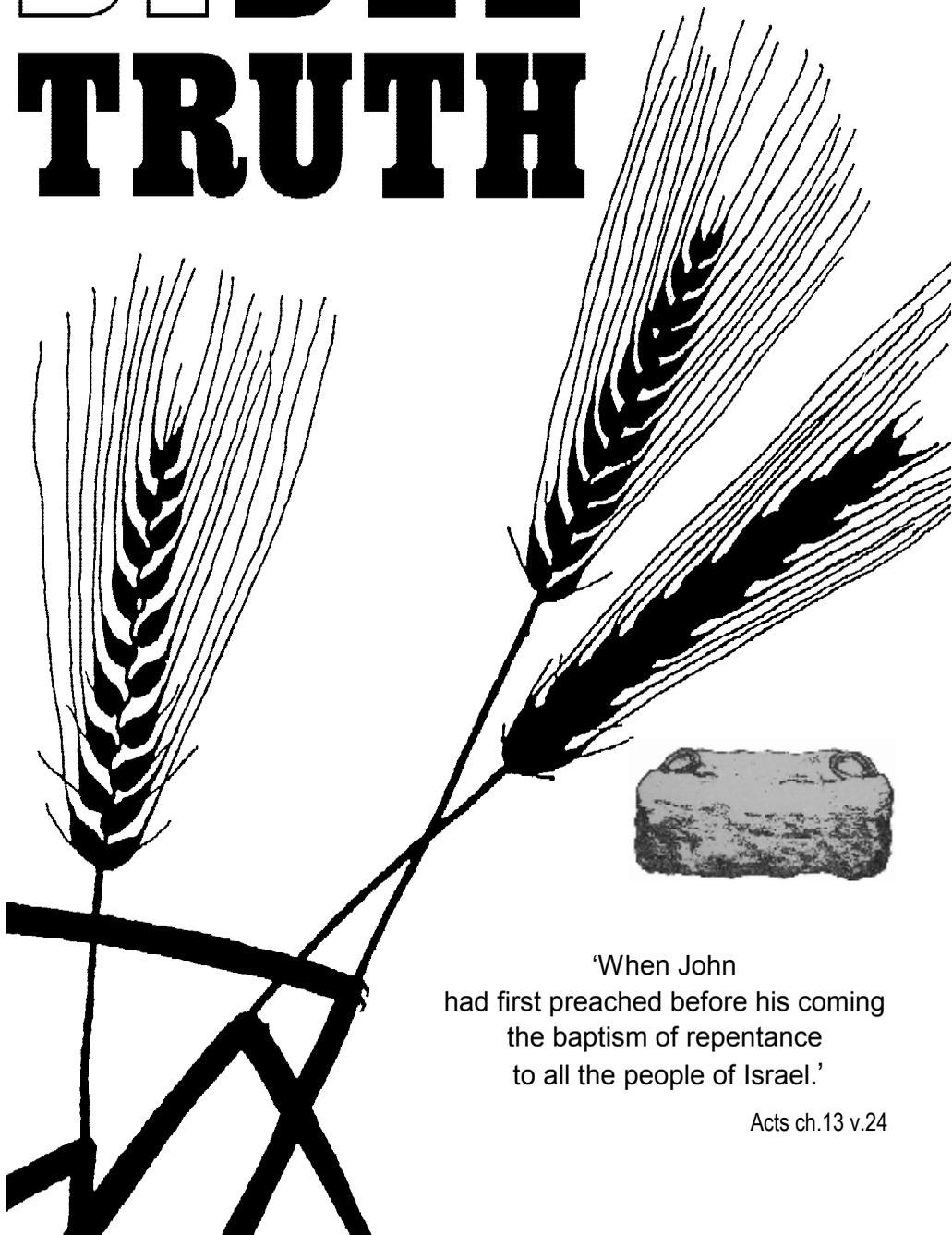


# BIBLE TRUTH

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'When John  
had first preached before his coming  
the baptism of repentance  
to all the people of Israel.'

Acts ch.13 v.24

# THE MIGRATIONS OF ISRAEL

## . . . our long walk

by Dr Michael D. Bennett

It is about 2,400 miles from Jerusalem to London, which is a long way to walk. Nevertheless, that is how our British ancestors made the journey from Palestine to the British Isles — on foot. Before the days of fixed political frontiers over the whole earth, it was common practice for whole tribes and nations to lead nomadic lives, roaming at will over vast stretches of terrain, sparsely populated and 'unknown' to the civilisations of the Mediterranean and the Fertile Crescent. It was also common experience for fierce warrior tribes to follow and prey on less powerful peoples. From time to time tribes wishing to lead a settled agricultural life would be forced to move on and search for new lands suitable for their type of culture. The reasons for moving on ranged from the failure of agriculture caused by primitive and destructive practices, political expediency, military necessity, or sometimes plain wanderlust. *The War Commentaries of Caesar* give detailed testimony to these facts concerning the movements of tribes in Gaul during the mid first century BC. *The Reader's Digest Great World Atlas* contains charts illustrating some migrations of peoples known from archeological studies to have occurred in ancient times.

It is not strange, then, to consider the migrations of whole tribes in ancient times, since movement was the common rather than the exceptional experience for many peoples over much of the Earth's land surface. Neither is it unusual to consider long distances such as 2,400 miles or more. After all, Alexander the Great marched his army 11,000 miles in eight and a half years, (which is over 4 times the distance from London to Jerusalem) and conquered the known world at the same time.

Certainly the Israelites started the journey on foot, because the Assyrians were not in the habit of supplying taxis for their prisoners of war! Both students of ancient history and Bible students accept that the Israelite tribes of Pekah's and Hoshea's Northern kingdom were removed by the Assyrians to repopulate border areas of the Assyrian Empire between 734 and 700 BC. Thereafter these students choose to lose them and their descendants in 'the mists of antiquity'. The

loss of the Northern Israelite tribes must constitute the greatest disappearing trick of history! The historians know where they placed several hundreds of thousands of Israelites by about 720 BC, but thereafter, poof! they just disappeared, and the blank in their subsequent history is equalled only by the blank looks which greet anyone foolish enough to suggest timidly that the Israelites didn't actually disappear but moved off to pastures new outside the borders of the Assyrian Empire.

For those who still know what walking is like in this age of cars, trains and jet-liners, it will seem obvious that it is easier to walk around mountains than over them. As it happens, rivers seem to have cottoned on to this elementary fact of life, so that all a migrating Israelite, or anybody else, had to do was follow the rivers. A cursory observation of several books of ancient history, especially some of those seeking to show which way our Israelite ancestors went, will quickly reveal maps thick with arrows, many of which totally disregard this fact. Just try to picture a tribe of 100,000 people with aged and young, flocks and baggage, scaling the Caucasus or the Alps! No, tribal groups on the march followed the rivers, the valleys, and the passes. An examination of the map of Europe will quickly show that people starting from the shores of the Black Sea, and following the rivers, will tend to arrive eventually on the shores of either the North or the Baltic Seas.

It appears that the Israelite tribe of Dan when on the way may have named many of the rivers '... after the name of Dan their father' (see Joshua ch.19 v.47). The number of major rivers starting with the consonants DN (N.B. Hebrew has no written vowels) is truly remarkable. There are for example, the DaNube, the DoN, the DNestr, the DNep and the DoNets. Along the route the tribes followed are towns bearing the same mark. For example, ZhuDallov, DNeprodzerzhinsk, DNepropetrovsk, DNesprostoy, DaNenberg and DaNzig, while at the end of the route the whole country of DeNmark carries the cipher.

It is generally accepted by students of ancient history that tribal groups which went to form the major Celtic and Scythian tribal groups appeared only a few miles from where the Israelite tribes are supposed to have been 'lost' and at the same time that the Israelite tribes 'disappeared'. This in itself is highly suggestive evidence that the peoples were the same, but that they had been given a change of name. We have all read a detective novel in which the villain, a tall blonde woman, rushes into a lift or cupboard only to emerge a few

minutes later as a short dark man, having removed the wig, shoes and padding! He still leaves, however, a trail of clues which lead to his final exposure by the hero. So it is with the migrations of the Israelite tribes across Europe. Although the names they travelled under were often changed, they always remained what they really were — Israelites — and left a trail of clues right across the continent and these allow us to unmask them at the last.

An article by Mr W.E. Filmer, traced *Our Scythian Ancestors* from a series of archeological clues. Similar evidence for the Celts could also be presented. The tribesmen left their mark in cultural objects such as horse bits, grave furniture, and the wonderful torcs (metal neck ornaments). The illustrations below show some of these objects which have been found at sites from Britain to the borders of Assyria. Many were buried by intent in graves or amongst treasures, while other objects were just the cast-offs of Iron-Age litter-bugs.



We do not have to struggle to prove that our Celtic, Saxon and Viking ancestors migrated across Europe to arrive on our shores between 600 BC and AD 1066 — the archaeologists have proved it for us. We do not have to prove that the Israelites walked to the edge of the then known world because historians and the Bible prove that for us. It is only the evidence for the transformation of captive Israelites into free Celtic and Scythian tribesmen which is at issue and still to be accepted by ‘the experts’.

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