

# NSD

# NEWSLETTER

Sunday, May 4, 2008

**BIBLE STUDY**..... 10 a.m.  
"Gospel of Luke"

**MORNING WORSHIP**..... 11 a.m.  
Guest Speaker: Leland Ping

**EVENING SERVICE**.... 6 p.m.  
"Great Expectations #2"  
Dan Austin

**WEDNESDAY MEETING**..... 7 p.m.  
"The Parables of Jesus"

... *singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.* Col 3:16

Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;  
From the end of the earth I call to you  
when my heart is faint.  
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I

O my Strength, I will watch for you,  
for you, O God, are my fortress.  
My God in his steadfast love will meet me;  
God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.

But I will sing of your strength;  
I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the  
morning.

For you have been to me a fortress  
and a refuge in the day of my distress.  
O my Strength, I will sing praises to you,  
for you, O God, are my fortress,  
the God who shows me steadfast love.

For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from Him comes my salvation.

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,  
for my hope is from Him.

Trust in Him at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before Him;  
God is a refuge for us. Selah

**Psalm 61: 1-2**  
**Psalm 59: 9-10, 16-17**  
**Psalm 62: 1, 5, 8**

## News & Notes

**Welcome Visitors.** If you are a visitor in our congregation today we would like to welcome you and hope you will stay for a while after service so we can get to know you.

Continue to pray for our military personnel who are overseas--**Logan Harper** and **Sam Barton** and for their families.

**Ron Adams** will be preaching the morning service at the Church in Santee while Leland Ping from Santee will be delivering our morning lesson.

### May Birthdays

- 3 George Fredrickson
- 20 Samantha Wilson
- 23 Daniel Hoskins

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*where the Bible is the source of faith, where Jesus is Lord, where Christianity is a way of life!*

# The Found Tribes of Israel

*Edwin L. Crozier*

One of the most common mistakes made about Biblical history is the supposedly lost tribes of Israel. We know God divided the descendants of Jacob into 13 different tribes: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh. The last two were the double portion granted to Joseph.

Rehoboam's folly caused the kingdom to be divided. Only Benjamin and Levi stayed with Judah; the rest formed the northern kingdom of Israel. Years later, because of idolatry and sin, Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians. At that time, Judah was delivered because Hezekiah turned to God.

While Israel was in Assyrian captivity, Babylon became the ruling power. Babylon conquered Assyria and eventually conquered Judah taking her captive and dispersing most of the Judean among the Babylonian lands.

About 70 years after the Babylonian captivity began, Cyrus, king of the Medo-Persians conquered Babylon and allowed the Jews to return home. But which Jews? Did this only apply to the Judeans? That is how most people view it. The 10 tribes taken captive by the Assyrians are simply viewed as lost.

However, those tribes are found in Luke 2:36. Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, did not depart for the temple. She praised God when Jesus was brought there for purification and went about telling everyone of the redemption of Jerusalem. Did you notice her tribe? She was not of Benjamin, Judah or Levi. She was of the tribe of Asher, one of the supposedly lost tribes.

Don't misunderstand. I have no doubt over the years of Assyrian captivity many of the Israelites blended in with their captive nation and lost their identity as Israelites. But clearly the tribes were not lost. They were restored as God promised.

The fact is, the prophets are filled with passages that Israel would also be restored along with Judah. That is, when Cyrus released the Jews, he released them all whether their captivity originated with Babylon or Assyria. Consider just a few prophecies.

Isaiah 11:12 promised God would assemble banished Israel and gather the dispersed of Judah. Jeremiah 3:18 promised Judah and Israel would be joined and walk again the land of their heritage. In Ezekiel 37:15-23, God used the picture of a broken stick brought back together to discuss the restoration of the kingdom. Part of it represented Judah, the other part Israel. There are many other passages in addition to these.

The fact is there were no lost tribes of Israel. God restored all of His people. God keeps His promises and in Luke 2:36 we see that truth.