

# December 2002 Newsletter

Messianic Morsels

Living Stones Church

Written by Ben Cassutto

The recent tension in the Middle East between Arabs and Jews got me thinking recently, how did this all start any way. So I got out my Bible and started looking around the Old Testament for the relevant passages. I was reading through Hosea and it kept mentioning Ephraim. I also remember my lovely wife referencing Ephraim as “the older brother”, meaning that God would never forsake Israel or “Ephraim” the older brother. So I started wondering- who Ephraim is- and I was shocked, first of all at the fact that I had forgotten who he was, and second, how important this is to our modern day troubles.

If we go all the way back to Genesis and the story of Joseph, we find that Ephraim was Joseph’s second son, BORN TO AN EGYPTIAN WOMAN! Manasseh was Joseph’s firstborn, also born to an Egyptian woman. Later on in Genesis 48 we see that Jacob (by then, God had changed his name to Israel), took Joseph’s sons to be his own, and even blesses Ephraim, even though Manasseh was the firstborn. Then in Isaiah, we see that the Prophet makes reference to Ephraim as the Northern Kingdom, which broke away from Judah. So, why is this relevant to the Middle East Crisis today? Well, what God showed me as a solution to the Arabs wanting the territory in the West Bank and the Gaza strip is this- To show both the Israeli and the PLO government that BIBLICALLY, and according to the family lines, that land is not belong to them, because it was part of the southern Kingdom, or Judah, from which the word “Jews” comes from. If there is any kind of a claim to land and a place where the modern day Palestinians could settle it should be northern Israel because Ephraim their ancestor, was half-Egyptian. It is clear from the intent of Jacobs’ blessing to Ephraim and Manasseh (“may they be called by my name and the names of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac), that he meant for these half-Egyptian brothers to be one with the rest of Israel. So if our Arab brother’s could see that their link to the nation of Israel is through Joseph, and not Mohammed, they would stop squabbling about who Abraham was the father to, and start worshiping the same God of Abraham Isaac, and Jacob, or Israel, along side their Jewish brothers! Amen.

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