

"A New Look at Matthew Ten"

By: William Norwood Hollis, M.A.

The tenth chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew contains several profound teachings. First, it is virtually all in "red letters" in my King James Version, which means that all of the words printed in red were spoken by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am somewhat like Thomas Jefferson in this regard since he enjoyed reading the words of Jesus as I do. In fact Jefferson probably concocted the first "red letter" edition for he extracted all of the words of Jesus from the New Testament, placed them in a certain order, and copied them into a little booklet which he carried on his person.

It was from this booklet that he took his daily meditations. This booklet became known as "The Jefferson Bible," and is still in print today. In this study we will not quote each scripture in the chapter as many of them pertain to basically the same subject matter as others. We will use those which will give us the entire teaching which Christ left us in this chapter, and will "rightly divide" them for the true meaning and teaching for which they were originally recorded. **(Matthew 10)**

- :1 "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."
- :5 These twelve Jesus sent forth and commanded them, saying, 'Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
- :6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
- :7 And as ye go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
- :8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast our devils: freely ye have received, freely give."

We find here that Jesus Christ has now chosen his twelve apostles, and that he empowered them to be able to heal all manner of sickness and disease. He gave them power to come against unclean spirits and cast them out. And **they did so without receiving any compensation, nor is there any record of "love offerings" being taken up.** The above scriptures state that Jesus told them that they "freely received," therefore they were to "freely give."

Jesus then commanded them not to go into any of the cities of Samaria. (Formerly part of the Northern Kingdom of Israel from which ten tribes of the chosen race of Israel, **approximately four million, had been taken captive by Assyria in 721 B.C., and who never returned to the "Promised Land."**) Throughout the Bible, the "Children of Israel," or "Israel," are known as the "Sheep of the fold," or the "Sheep of the Good Shepherd," etc. With this fact in mind, the command, or order, that Jesus gave these hand picked, chosen, disciples in the next verse to, "go only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel (not Jews) scattered abroad," certainly makes sense. Actually **only some 43,000 members of the remaining two tribes - Benjamin and Judah - returned to the city of Jerusalem from their captivity in Babylon in 585 B.C.** You can see,

therefore, that there were not many true Israelites residing in all of Judea at the time Christ issued this command, and he certainly knew it. These "hand picked" messengers, were both "chosen" and "commanded," to go to these "Children of Israel," (the lost sheep) who also had been chosen since the "foundations of the earth," and had been given "ears to hear, and eyes to see." For this reason, they would be receptive to the apostles' message from the Messiah.

Incidentally, God commands us to "rightfully divide the word of truth," (**2 Timothy 2:15**) In so doing, we often receive a "pearl of great price." Perhaps you have not thus far received these "pearls" in Matthew ten in all of your former Biblical teaching. You be the judge:

In addition to the fact already learned that Jesus commanded each of the Apostles "not to go into the cities of Samaria," he also commanded them not to go "into the way of the Gentiles;" yet **the "church" teaches that the Apostles did exactly the opposite from what they were commanded to do**, and therefore they went to the Gentiles. Since Jesus stated later that Judas Iscariot was "chosen so that the scriptures may be fulfilled," and he further stated of the twelve, "I know whom I have chosen," we can know and believe, that he had a purpose for the other eleven also, and that they had to carry it out as did Judas Iscariot. (The only "Jew" of the twelve.) This purpose, Jesus plainly stated when he directed them to "go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," and "not to go into the way of the Gentiles."

Now the "organized church" teaches that the Jews are Israel, and that since they, as a race, did not believe in Jesus Christ, Jehovah-God sent his Word out to the "Gentiles;" (us folks) that for some strange reason we "Gentiles" believed, became his sheep, and entered into his fold. But certainly you can see the fallacy in this kind of teaching! It is **simply not what the Bible says! It is not what God. commanded! IT IS HERETICAL!** If Judas Iscariot had to perform the mission for which he was chosen, then we must believe that the other "Chosen" Apostles did likewise. Therefore, they did not "go into the cities of Samaria" as Christ commanded them **NOT TO DO;** nor did they "go unto the way of the gentiles" as He also **COMMANDED THEM NOT TO DO;** but rather followed their Savior's command, and "WENT TO THE LOST SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL." Since these "lost Israelites" who were "scattered abroad" had been given "ears to hear,"- when the Apostles got to them they readily believed - churches were formed - missionaries were sent to the "four corners of the earth." This means simply that the original members of the early churches, which were established in Galatia, Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, Thessalonica, Rome, etc., were all blood members of the "lost tribes of Israel." Certainly they were "Gentiles" in the sense that they were not Jews; (anyone who lived in Judea) but they were also "Gentiles" by the original definition and true meaning of the term.

"Gentile: (Latin—gentilis, belonging to a clan, race, or people. Of, or pertaining to gens, tribe, or nation. L. gens, clan, race, people:...see gens)

"Gens: (L. clan, race, people, gen - beget, produce: see genius.) A group of families in ancient Rome claiming descent from a common ancestor and united by a common name and common religious rights; in general, a tribe or clan."

So we see that these "lost sheep of the House of Israel" were truly of the same genes, clan, and race of the Chosen Apostles who were commanded by our Lord This certainly fits Israel, (Jacob) and they were called "Israelites" or the Children of Israel." to go only to them! We see, too, that since they followed their Lord's command they had a receptive audience because God's Chosen were "given ears to hear and eyes to see" from the earth's foundation. The Lord also gave them the text of their message: THEY WERE TO PREACH "THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT

HAND.” We have found here, another “Pearl of Great Price,” overlooked entirely by the “establishment” church, and of course, we are speaking of the “Kingdom Message.” The church states that the **gospel**¹ is the “good news” about Christ’s birth, death, and resurrection that all who believe are saved. Whereas this is all certainly true, and should be a part of the “good news,” the fact remains that this is not the “Kingdom” message which they were chosen to preach. The Kingdom of God, was, and is, at hand; and this certainly falls into the category of “good news.”

Verse :9, “provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, **Verse :10**, ”Nor script (paper money) for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.”

These verses are almost totally ignored also by the “church” today. It is a small wonder since their major effort is fund raising for “administrative costs,” and building programs.” Almost none of them operate without a budget. They have followed the “ways of the world.” For the first four hundred years of church history, not a collection was taken up but for “widows, and orphans,” which **James** tells us (**1:27**) is “pure religion.” None was taken up for salaries - none for buildings - none for retirement - none for music - none for transportation, **interest**,² etc.. Jesus commanded his Apostles “not to take money with them.” They were to work their way through, as many of us did for our college education. Today, however, the emphasis is on security, and not faith. The Bible tells us that “greater is the faith of those who believe and have not seen, than those who saw and then believed.”

Matthew 10 Verse -

- :16** “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”
- :17** “But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;”
- :18** “And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.”

We have already learned that the Apostles were Israelites, and that Jesus commanded them to “go ONLY to the lost sheep of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL. They were likewise commanded not to go to the “Gentiles.” Now Jesus is telling them how they will be persecuted by the Jews, and delivered up to their Synagogues to be beaten and scourged. Jesus tells his Apostles in verse eighteen that all of this is to be done for him as “a testimony against them (the Jews) and the Gentiles.” It is plain to see here, that these Apostles were Israelites, which made them NEITHER JEWS OR GENTILES!

Verse -

- :21** “And brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.”
- :22** ”And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake! but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”

¹ Strong’s Concordance gives #2097-98, and in all verses, save one, this is the definition of the term, “gospel, (EUAGGELIZO” - to announce, declare, good news.”)

² **Deut. 23:19** - Prohibits a Christian from lending anything for interest to a fellow Christian. The Jews, of course, had no restraints and gladly filled in the void.

:23 “But when they persecute you in the city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of Man be come!”

Verses 21-22, show us that being a true witness for Christ, boldly proclaiming the “Kingdom of God,” and Jesus Christ the Son, that our lives will not be easy. In fact, verse 36 seems to sum up verses 21, 22, 23, 35, 37-39, when it tells us in no uncertain terms that **“A MAN’S FOES SHALL BE OF HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD.”**

If we stand fast and continue to “confess” Christ before men,” he will “confess” us to his Father, Jehovah-God in heaven. The chapter ends with verse 42 which tells us that if we will but give “a cup of water” to “one of these little ones,” that we **“SHALL IN NO WISE LOSE OUR REWARD.”** (See **Matthew 25:31-46**) By reading and studying these two chapters, Matthew ten and twenty-five, we can receive two “Pearls of great price.” Chapter ten tells us that we can lose our reward, and chapter twenty-five tells us who is going to heaven, and what we can do to get there. It is incumbent upon us to study these scriptures so that we will not find ourselves in the position of the “five foolish Virgins,” the “slothful servant who burned his one talent,” or “the goats who are condemned, to everlasting punishment.” It is all there in The Book! Don’t forget that when we ultimately stand before the Judge, Jesus Christ, and the “Book of Remembrances” is opened to our name, we cannot rely upon a substitute. **We will be responsible. Not our preacher!** (Though he is responsible for the way he shepherds the flock), Not our Sunday School teacher, nor anyone else. **WE MUST “STUDY TO SHOW (OURSELVES) APPROVED UNTO GOD. A WORKMAN, NOT ASHAMED-RIGHTHY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.”**

Many churches also teach that everyone will eventually be saved, and that there is no burning hell - that hell is nothing but the grave. **Verse twenty-eight** of this chapter should be enough evidence to the contrary to refute this heretical teaching: Jesus said,

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Tell me, what do we possess other than a body and a soul? Our bodies are physical, and our souls are spiritual, and if they can be destroyed, what is left?

We have thus far learned that Jesus Christ called his twelve disciples (Apostles) to himself, commanded them to preach the “Kingdom” message, gave them power to heal all manner of sickness, disease, and to cast out unclean spirits. He then commanded them to go only to the “lost sheep of the House of Israel” scattered abroad,” and not to “go to the Gentiles.” We can be certain that this is exactly what they did as they were elected by God to do so, even as Judas Iscariot, by Jesus’ own admission, was chosen “so that the scriptures might be fulfilled.”

Now the Lord gave them a parting promise in verse twenty-eight, when he told them “ye shall not have **GONE OVER THE CITIES OF ISRAEL BEFORE I BE COME (COME BACK) AGAIN.**” This is one of the most significant verses in the entire New Testament, and it is “given for our benefit.” Let us then -”rightfully divide it,” as we are.

The House of Israel is the term used in the Bible for the ten tribes of Israelites who were taken captive in 721 B.C., by Assyria, and who never returned to Canaan. The Bible completely separates them from The House of Judah (Benjamin and Judah). It is your “Establishment” Church which fails to do so, calling them all “Jews.”

Please understand that the Kingdom of Israel (the Israelites - who were never' called "Jews" in the Bible), and the Kingdom of Judea (Jews, and can only possibly refer to a member of the two tribes mention above, or to an inhabitant of Judea), **ARE NOT INTERCHANGEABLE IN THE BIBLE!** God separated them. His Word, the Holy Bible, separates them! It is just that most of those who "are called to preach" in our churches DO NOT SEPARATE THEM! This is a most amazing fact, which even more points out the urgent need for us to "study the scriptures" for ourselves. While you are doing this, beware of footnotes, and chapter headings, etc. Remember these are manmade, and are not a part of the "inspired scriptures." You will note that occasionally they headings will state "the Jews did this, or the Jews did that." However when you read the scriptures below, the headings it will say "the Israelites did this, or the Hebrews did that." Most preachers of the Word have never bothered to look up the definition of the term "Jew" in Webster's Dictionary, and probably none of them have ever bothered to study the etymology of the term. In so doing, they would quickly learn that the term was originally given to only those who were members of the tribe of Judah, one of the twelve tribes of Israel. This, of course, is a racial nomenclature. Then, about the third century B.C., it was given to those who inhabited the country of Judea, regardless of race, religion, etc. When the Bible was translated from the Greek into Latin, the word for a person who resided in Judea (Judeaus) was translated into the original King James Bible as IEW, and later into the Shakespearian term "Jew." **AT THE TIME OF CHRIST IT WAS A GEOGRAPHICAL TERM WHICH WAS GIVEN TO ANY INHABITANT OF JUDEA.** If you live in Texas.. .you're a Texan!

The foregoing is necessary so that you will appreciate the fact that Jesus Christ knew this when he commanded the Apostles to go "only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel (**verse 6**), and then telling them that they "**would not have gone over the (these) cities of Israel,**" **before he returns. YOU PROBABLY HAVE NEVER BEEN TAUGHT THIS TRUTH BEFORE!** It is not in the repertoire of the so-called "end times" preachers! Read the scripture again. Please note that Jesus did not command them to "GO TO THE CITIES OF THE JEWS!" Why? Because he was already preaching in them and he certainly knew that few, if any of the House of Israel (Israelites) would be found there. If the "Jews" were Israel as the "Church" would have you believe, it certainly would not take eleven disciples who were "on fire for the Lord", very long to cover these towns and villages of Judea, which is where they would have gone if the Jews were Israel. A look at a map of Palestine at the time of Christ found in the back of your Bible will quickly show you that there are less than one hundred of such "cities" in Judea. Therefore, if our Lord fulfilled his promise to his Apostles made in verse twenty-three, he would have had to return no later than the 2nd century A.D., since it would not have taken these disciples, who brought 3,000 into the "church" at Pentecost, nearly this long to have "gone over the cities" of JUDEA!

However, they did follow their Lord's command - went to the "Lost Ten Tribes of Israel" - preached the "Kingdom" message, and the Western Christian Nations, (known in early times as "Christendom") were formed and governed by Christians. (known by Christ's name) Cities were formed in these nations, and local churches, (the ecclesia) sprang up everywhere. Over the next few centuries the Gospel (good news of the birth, crucifixion, and resurrection) of our Lord Jesus Christ was literally taken to the "four corners of the earth." **These "cities of Israel" have become many of the world's Largest, most densely populated, affluent, metropolitan areas of the world,** and it is these cities to which our Lord referred to in verse twenty-eight. These cities are the ones which are to be evangelized by Christ's disciples, and before they are finished with them, our Lord and Savior will return. This is what Christ said!