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**BRIRISH ANCESTRY AND ANCIENT
ISRAELITES
(BRITISH-ISRAEL)**

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Dedication

I would like to dedicate this work to my family who has supported me throughout the process of studying.

To my beloved parents, thank you for your support and encouragement

I also would like to dedicate my work to all those who contributed to its accomplishment.

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Abstract

By the early of the 17th century Europe saw the rise of many movements and cults. The so-called British- Israel or Anglo Israelism is one of these cults which in its function aims to identify Britain and the British Nation identity with Israel. In other words, the first inhabitants of the British Isles (the Celtic and Anglo Saxons) are considered the descendants of the Israelite tribes. Thus, this thesis sheds lights on the British Israel by representing its functions and aims. But this required a wide range of researches to sort with obvious information and brought clear evidence about it. Moreover, it depicts the historical and cultural contexts briefly of both British peoples and Israelites. The first part of this research paper depicts the origins and ancestry of the Celtic and Saxons peoples while the second part deals with the roots and ancestry of ancient Israel. Finally, according to many records this thesis concludes that the British- Israel is not fact. It is just a lie. It is no more than a myth.

Key words

British Israel; Britain; Israel; British identity; Celtic; Anglo-Saxons; British Isles; ancient Israel;

List of figures tables, and maps

Figure 01	Abraham's Family Tree	26
Table 01	the names of Israelites sons and their meaning according to Hebrew	30
Map 01	The Twelve Tribes of Israel	29
Map 02	The Kingdom of Judah and Israel	45
Map 03	The Israelites in the Captivity	46

Table of Contents

Dedication

Acknowledgement

Abstract

List of Figures

Table of Content

General Introduction.....	1
Chapter One: Britain, British Ancestry and Culture	
Introduction.....	6
I. Defining Britain.....	7
II. The British Ancestry.....	7
A. The Celts.....	8
1. Origins.....	9
2. Culture.....	10
3. Society.....	12
4. Religion.....	13
B. Anglo-Saxons.....	13
1.Origins.....	15
2.Culture.....	15
3.Society.....	18
4.Religion.....	19
III. Modern British Society.....	19
IV. The Myth of British Ancestry.....	20
Conclusion.....	20
Chapter Two: Israel (Ancient and Modern)	
Introduction.....	23
I. Defining Israel.....	23
II. Ancient Israel.....	24
A. Historical overview.....	24
B. The tribes of Israel.....	27
C. Ancient Israel Cultural Landscape.....	31
1. Culture.....	31

2. Society.....	32
3. Religion.....	32
III. Jew, Zionist, Israelites and Israeli are distinct terms.....	32
IV. Modern Israel.....	34
A. Roots.....	34
B. The role of Britain in the establishment of Israel nation.....	35
V. Modern Israel vs. ancient Israel.....	35
Conclusion.....	36
Chapter Three: British-Israel	
Introduction.....	38
I. British-Israel.....	38
A. Definition.....	38
B. Roots of British-Israel.....	40
C. Goals.....	42
D. British-Israel Doctrine.....	42
E. The Lost Tribes of Israel.....	45
F. Identification of Britain in Scripture.....	47
II. British-Israel is Fact or Myth?	48
Conclusion.....	50
General Conclusion.....	52
Work cited.....	56

General Introduction

Today, numerous books and television history programs tap into an enormous and enduring interest in the past. According to a famous English novel "*The Go- Between*" which is written by L.P Hartley: the past is a foreign country: they do everything differently there.

British islands were and are always home of multiple cultural groups and ethnic identities. History provides many indications of how a country such as Britain has traditionally been perceived and the extent to which its people, often accused living in the past used to do things differently. Britain is a country that is passing through a number of historical periods. It can be identified two of them that this research concerns with: the rural, and the multicultural periods.

Furthermore, the British Isles in early times saw several waves of invaders. The first inhabitants were the Iberians in about 3000 BC and they were followed by the Celtic tribes. The Celts personified the Iron Age civilization. Their culture is very different and ancient. Because these people left no written records about themselves the findings about them are only depending on their literate enemies such Greeks and Romans. Caesar, Diodorus, Strabo and others described these people as barbaric and warlike. The oral tradition of these peoples and archaeological research are important to piece out a contemporary society at that time. It has been said that the Celtics originated in central Europe in early time then they began to expand and moving toward west and south. At the height of their expansion, Celtic tribes occupied territory named Galatea in Asia- Minor (today's Turkey) west to British Isles and Ireland. They were polytheists and Druids are the priest version of Celts. They developed two phases of cultures, the first named Hallstatt and the second was known as La Tène culture.

Then Britain was invaded by the Romans. And later invaders come from the most powerful Germanic tribes: Jutes, Angles, and Saxons. They shaped the Anglo Saxon civilization about the fourth century AD. They shared enough characteristics philosophically and socially with the Celtic people even they have different language and different customs. Later it became difficult to distinguish the Anglo- Saxons from Celts. However British culture is a result of combination of the two parent culture. Thus, the Anglo Saxons identified the British identity at that time.

The history of ancient Israel in the Hebrew Bible was written by the Judahite authors in Jerusalem, the capital of southern kingdom Judah and the hub of the Davidic dynasty. According to biblical records, the first Israelites or the twelve tribes of Israel traced their ancestry to the prophet Abraham. The Hebrew Bible says that God told Abraham and his followers to leave Mesopotamia and go to the land of Canaan. There, they were to worship the one true God. In return, God promised that the land of Canaan would belong to Abraham and his descendants. For this reason, according to Hebrew bible or Torah, the Israelites settled in Canaan. The prophet Jacob was the grandson of Abraham. He was also called Israel, which means “one who struggles or fights with God”. Later the name Israel was given to the descendants of Jacob who, according to biblical Hebrew, raised twelve sons in Canaan. However, his family was divided into twelve tribes or separate family groups. The tribes of Israel lived in Canaan for about 100 years. Then a long drought began such Babylonian captivity and Roman conquest. Nevertheless the Jews continued to keep their religion even though other people ruled them. They expanded in many parts over the globe and settled in many places in Asia, Europe, Australia, and Africa. Moreover the presentation of Jews in Europe mainly in Britain played a key role in preserving Jewish identity and keeping Jewish communities transient. It would be later provide a key role in inspiring Zionist movement.

More specifically, Europe saw several changes including the rise of many cults. Among these cults there was the so-called British-Israel which says that the Celt and Saxons race are Israelites in their origins and the Celts are the first wave of lost tribes of Israel in Europe. In other words, this cult “British- Israel” or “Anglo- Israel” aims to identify the British and British nation identity with Israel.

Therefore, from the lectures of American studies about New Israel last two years, and from reading series of books about the true identity of Israel and others about the British civilization, and some documentaries that improved great interest of making this research. It should not be, of course, neglected the curiosity to interpret and investigate about this term.

Thus this brief research aims to shed flashes of lights upon this theory of British-Israel which identified Britain with Israel by providing an answer for the following problematic: how far has British-Israel been a fact? However, in order to give a suitable answer for this problematic we have to provide answers for the following research questions: 1) who are the Celts and Saxons and where did they come from? 2) Who are the tribes of Israel and what did happen to them? Are the Jews, Israelites and Zionists synonymous terms? What is British- Israel and what are its goals?

So this work is divided into three chapters; the first chapter deals with the origins of the British people. It demonstrates the ancestry of British by representing the cultural landscape of the Celts and the Anglo Saxons. It shows up a modern British society and how the Jewish identity and culture take place in. The second chapter deals with the origins of Israel and provides facts about the lost tribes of Israel. This chapter also depicts the most important characteristics of ancient Israel, their customs and traditions. Further, this chapter points out the function of Jews, Zionist, and Israelite. It shows also the role of Britain in the founding of the Israelite state. The third chapter sheds light on the British Israel by

representing its functions and goals and providing evidence about it. Then it deals with the identification of British, Celts, and Saxons as Israelites in Biblical Scripture in the view of many British-Israelite writers. Next, it examines the principal differences between British and Israelites in terms of history, culture and religion as an attempt to find a solution for the problematic of this research by proving whether British Israel is true or a myth.

Chapter One:
Britain, British Ancestry and Culture

Nowadays, many books, articles, journals, and several television history programmes and documentaries tap into an enormous and enduring interest in the past, in the ancient civilizations, providing interests about ancient people by giving a picture of their lives, cultures, religions, and more emphasized on the origin, identity, and of these people.

Thus, this chapter sheds light on the cultural groups and identity of British Isles. It aims to demonstrate the British ancestors by representing the Celtic and Anglo Saxons people within their origins and cultures.

I. Defining Britain

Britain is an island, and Britain's history has been closely connected with the sea (McDowall 03). The name "Britain" traced back to the Roman times. It comes from the word "Pretani" the Greco-Roman word for the inhabitants of Britain. The Romans mispronounced the word and called the island "Britannia". The Roman province of Britannia covered most of present-day England and Wales (Wauconda). In addition, Great Britain or "Britannia Major" was used to distinguish Britain from other small territory in France namely "Brittany" or "Britannia Minor"

People often refer to Britain by other names. They call it "England". But England is only one of the four nations in this part of the world (D'Oriscoll 10). They sometimes use the term Britain to refer to UK or British Isles. But neither Britain is UK, nor is Britain. Great Britain, UK, and British Isles are not synonymous. Great Britain is the official name given to the two kingdoms of England and Scotland and the principality of Wales. Unlike Great Britain, UK includes Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The British Isles include UK and other several islands as well as Isle of Man (Olson).

The wonderful thing about archaeology is that it opens our eyes afresh to the complexity of both the recent and more distant past (Quin). From this view, history is governed by geography. So it is obvious that the history of Britain before the Roman conquest depends on the archaeological research and studies. These archaeological research divide man's history into the following periods: Lower and Upper Palaeolithic (sometimes known as Old Stone Age) refers to the everything before 8000 BC; Mesolithic (also known as the Middle Stone Age): 8000 – 4000 BC; Neolithic (the New Stone Age) which covers the period 4000 – 2500 BC; Bronze Age: 2500 – 700 BC; the Iron Age which covers the period 700 – 43 AD; Roman 43 – 410 AD; Early Medieval or Anglo Saxon (Dark Ages) which covers the Saxons and Vikings: 800 – 1100; Late Medieval: 1066 – 1530; Post Medieval: 1530 – 1850; and Early Modern: 1850 to the present (Quin).

II. The British Ancestry

The oldest inhabitants, according to historians, classical writers and archaeologists, came to Britain about 250,000 BC over the land bridge that connected today's British Isles and the continent of Europe at that time. Then, the so-called Iberians reached Britain between, 3500 and 3000 BC. They may be come from the Iberian Peninsula. In addition, both the Iberians and the so-called Beaker people (c. 2000 BC; who's named after the beaker shaped pots they made) settled in the South and southeast of Britain. On one side, the Iberians used stone and bone tools and their settlement were based on "henges", great circles of earth banks and huge standing stones (e.g. Stonehenge). On the other side, the Beaker people brought the knowledge of metal working. They brought the knowledge of the Bronze to Britain; that's why that period is known as the Bronze Age. Their influence was soon felt and, as a result, they became leaders of British society. Their arrival is marked by

the first individual graves, furnished with pottery beakers, from which these people get their name: the “Beaker” people (McDowall 07).

A.The Celts

By 700 BC, another group of people began to invade Britain. They came to Britain in progressive waves of immigration with thousands of men, women, and children. Wave after another one, however they settled the whole of Britain just in the period occurred between ca. 700 and 100 BC. These were known as the “Celts”. They were famous of their iron working, thus that period known as the Iron Age. They are considered as the British first ancestors as McDowall described them:

Around 700 BC, another group of people began to arrive. Many of them were tall, and had fair or red hair and blue eyes. These were the Celts, who probably came from central Europe or further east, from southern Russia, and had moved slowly westwards in earlier centuries. They were technically advanced. They knew how to work with iron, and could make better weapons than the people who used bronze. The Celts began to control all the all the lowland areas of Britain, and were joined by new arrivals from the European mainland. They continued to arrive in one wave after another over the next seven hundred years (07).

The Celts were a group of related tribes linked by language, religion and culture that gave rise to the first civilization north of the Alps. Moreover, the Celtic people are considered as a starting- point for a study of the long series of peoples who have contributed to the British history by their settlement in Britain. They provide a link between the prehistoric period and the early historic period (Cunliffe 07).

1. Origins

First, it should be concerned with the origin and the meaning of the words “Celt” and “Celtic”. The terms “Celt” and “Celtic” originally derived from Latin (Cletus) and Greek *keltoi* (Cunliffe 09; Monaghan) and they are used by historians to denote European peoples who spoke a Celtic language. Secondly, the Celtic people were known “Galates” by the Greeks and “Gauls” by the Romans. Thirdly, the Celtic language could be divided into four languages: Breton, Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic, and Welsh. These Celtic languages are still in use today in the connection with the cultures of the six Celtic nations; Brittany, Ireland, Scotland, Cornwall, Wales, and the Isle of Man. In her work, Monaghan, stated: “What the word Celtic itself means is unknown, if it was not, as many assume the name of a small group within the larger Celtic world, it may derive from the Old Norse word for “war”, for the Celts were known as a warrior people”(VII).

Furthermore, the word ‘Celt’ was not used by the so-called Celts to name themselves. The word ‘Celt’ was an invention of the 18th century (Dr.Simon). It is a modern term used by scholars and archaeologists to depict peoples whom having common culture, and to name Celtic nations that have Celtic language. However, these ancient people called themselves by the names of their tribes; that means that Celt is a name of one of their tribes. Accordingly, Monaghan said:

No ancient people called themselves “the Celts”. They called themselves Belgae, Cantii, Icini, Brigantes, Voconces, Arvereni, or by any one of scores of other tribal names. Where contemporary imagination sees a single culture, these ancient people themselves knew dozens of linguistically related groups, each bearing a name derived from an ancestor, a god or a goddess, a totem animal, a sacred location. The word “Celt” may originally have been one of these tribal names used by other Europeans as a generic term for the whole people (IV).

Moreover, Because the Celtic people themselves left no written records, the finding information about them are based upon the literature works of their enemies, especially Romans, and their oral traditions that transmitted by storytellers. In the works of Hecataeus of Miletus, Herodotus, Ephoros who depicted Celts as barbarians, and Strabo whose described them as warlike people and others (Monaghan V). But these writers were reported what they learned from their travellers, they had no personal experience of Celtic ways, so scholars went further to write down their works and books about Celts depending on the archaeological researches and excavations.

Hence, there has always been speculation about the origin of the Celts. That is meant that there is no asserted data and information about the origin of these people. Some historians and scholars do not know the origin of the Celts. They do not know where these people are from. They often named them the people who came 'out of darkness'. Accordingly, still the origins of the Celts and the pathways of their earlier expansion are to great extent hidden in the time depths of prehistory (Meid 11). Other art historians and archaeologists have agreed that Celts originated in central Europe. Thus, the origins of Celtic peoples rely upon the archaeological evidence since history is governed by geography.

Indeed, in the genetic analysis and studies there was an interest in what genetics might be able to tell about the origins of the Celts in the UK (Wellcome Trust). In 2004, genetic studies carried by Daniel Bradley, of the Trinity College de Dublin, proved that the genetic ties between the inhabitants of Celtic areas of Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Brittany and Cornwall are very strong and that, among all other peoples of Europe, the closest genetic traits of these are located in Iberian Peninsula. Daniel Bradley proposes, similarly, a previous origin of at least 6000 years to the communities of the Atlantic coast (Goreti M.). Other Oxford University geneticists, Stephen Oppenheimer in his book *The Origins of The*

British (2006) and Bryan Sykes in his book *Blood of The Isles* (2006) have concluded that the early Celts had their origin not in central Europe.

Therefore, neither historians nor archaeologists really know for sure where they came from. In his words, Mikhailova states: “Naturally, the area of the Celtic expansion (including the earlier periods) would comprise both the British Isles and the Iberian peninsula, but whence, where exactly and when the Celts arrived there (either by land or by sea) remains a matter of sheer speculation” (258).

2.Celtic Culture

The term ‘culture’ refers to the language, beliefs, values and norms, customs, dress, diet, roles, knowledge and skills, and all the other things that people learn that make up the ‘way of life’ of any society. Culture is passed on from one generation to the next through the process of socialization. Although there are many aspects of everyday life which are shared by most members of society, there are different conceptions and definitions of culture within this general approach (Browne).

Celtic culture is very ancient. Throughout Celtic history, the fourth century was a high point of Celtic influence in Europe. The Celtic culture and language were an active force throughout the entire continent, from Black sea to the Atlantic, and from the Baltic to the Mediterranean where Celtic tribes controlled a number of important trading routes across Europe. Thus, archaeologists’ findings distinguished two distinct periods of the Celtic culture. Their earliest culture was known as *Hallstatt* and the second known as *La Tène*.

Hallstatt culture emerged from post 1000 BC to around 500 BC. This culture was a wealthy one being centred on a salt mining region. The use of iron was highly developed in this area by the end of the Hallstatt period (Desmond). This paved the way for the next

phase in Celtic development. The La Tène culture emerged around 500 BC. This period is characterized by a new phase in Celtic expansion. It was not just immigration and trade but war which endeavoured to spread Celtic influence. However, Celtic movement, at that time, was southwards rather than westwards (Desmond). The La Tène art forms were a definite success with the spread of beautiful bronze and iron work over Western Europe. This period's culture was influenced by Greek, Etruscan, and Scythian styles (Arnold 71-93; Cunliffe 40-45). According to Matson La Tène named after a village in Switzerland where later Celtic artifacts have been discovered.

3. Society

Celtic society was ruled by a warrior class. It organized into different feudal systems headed by a king or queen. Generally the Celtic society was divided into three different classes: a warrior upper class (headed by a king), druids (priests, judges and educators) and the commoners (i.e. freemen and slaves) (Cunliffe 116-117).

The Celts were farmers and fighters. They very clean people. Celtic men and women of Britain sometimes wore swirling blue tattoos or paintings on their bodies. All Celts played lyres and harps, loved song, music, and recitation of legends and epic adventures. They used metal or ornamented natural horns for drinking (McDowall 08). Furthermore, the women sometimes sewed little bells on the fringed ends of their tunics (Heather & Buryess). Their usual dress was a sleeved tunic tucked into a large, gathered, and belted skirt or simply an ankle-length tunic with a belt while Celtic men wore shirts and breeches (knee-length trousers) and striped or checked cloaks fastened by a pin (McDowall08).

4. Religion

When it comes to Celtic history, separating reality from myth is not easy (William D.G). The origins, culture, and traditions of the so called Celts are all highly obscure. The ancient Celts had oral traditions. Instead, Celtic history, customs and laws were passed on from one generation to another by word of mouth.

Celts were polytheists. They worshipped multiple gods and goddesses. Druids were the Celtic version of priests. They were spiritual leaders who led rituals and told prophesy. They were also educators and judges. Julius Caesar once said that they were a very religious people who had a moral code that distinguished right from wrong (Big Myth). In the Celtic religion moral salvation was considered the responsibility of the individual. These Druids could not read or write, but they memorised all religious teachings, the tribal laws, history, medicine and other knowledge necessary in Celtic society. Druids from different tribes all over Britain met once a year. They had no temples, but they met sacred groves of trees, on certain hills, or by rivers lakes (Cunliffe 51,153; Monaghan XIII-XIV).

It is only as prehistoric archaeology has come to throw more and more light on the civilizations of Celtic lands that it has become possible to interpret Celtic religion from a thoroughly modern viewpoint (E. Anwyl). There is a rich mythology of Irish and British origin . For the British, there is always the legendary King Arthur and Boadicea who fought against the Romans (Monaghan XV).

Celtic rituals were very mysterious. The Celts were highly respected the human head. They believed that the head was the centre of the soul, and contained the essence of the individual. The soul survived the death of the body. Further, the Celts believed that a severed head could move, speak, sing and ward off evil. Thus, heads of those vanquished in battle were highly prized and kept as family heirlooms. Nevertheless, the number three

was also sacred to the Celts and there are many surviving artifacts that have a three sided head and three statues at a well. Water also had special meaning for the Celts, and many artifacts have been found that were probably deliberately thrown into the rivers and lakes (Goreti M.).

After the arrival of the Roman legions to British Isles, Celtic art and artifacts changed. They adopted the Roman god's names and absorbed many of the cults. However, Roman and Celtic cultures mingled together. Later, it seemed difficult to distinguish between them.

B. Anglo - Saxons

Britain was “ripe for invasion” (Roderick 16). The area was soon divided and split between the so- called Celts and the new invaders of Germanic tribes which occupied the south and east provinces, bringing with them their language and pagan culture (Brooks 21-23).

The collapse and decay of the Western Roman Empire opened the way for other invaders to settle in British islands. This period is characterized by the arrival of the Germanic peoples. These immigrants occupied most of the west and northwest provinces of Britain that were left by the Romans. And no longer had these new waves of invaders dominated British. Their first work was to stamp out with fire and sword every trace of the Roman civilization (Allen 25). However, by the eighth century the Celtic identity of Britain had been replaced with the Anglo-Saxon identity of England.

1.Origins

The people who call Anglo-Saxons were from some of the most powerful and warlike tribes in Germany (Shore 02-03). The Oxford English Dictionary states that the

concept “Anglo- Saxons” refers to a member of the Germanic peoples who settled in England during the early fifth century. As language, Anglo- Saxon is considered as the inflected ancestor language of modern English, it is called Old English, spoken in Britain from the late fourth to the early eleventh centuries.

Historians, archaeologists, and literary scholars all remain much less convinced. They agree that the term “Anglo- Saxon” is a modern invention of the 19th century, as well as in the case of the term “Celt”. Indeed, it should be remembered that the expression Anglo-Saxon is purely artificial, and was never used by the people themselves in describing their fellows or their tongue. When they did not speak of themselves as Jute, English, and Saxons respectively, they spoke of themselves as English alone (Allen 08). Malone in his words explains more about this term:

The term Saxones representing a Germanic tribe of the North Sea Coast, was first mentioned by the Egyptian astronomer, mathematician and geographer Ptolemy at around 150 AD. He situates the Saxons to western Holstein or to western Slesvig. During the third century, they probably migrated westward along the coast. In the fourth century, they occupied the German coast from Elbe to Ems. During the fourth and fifth centuries, —Saxon|| became a generic term for a North Sea pirate. Therefore, —the Saxons, Angles and Jutes who conquered eastern Britain in the fifth century were all called Saxons by their victims and by the Continental writers of the day, and the name were long kept as a generic term for the English settlers and their descendants, irrespective of the tribal divisions and subdivisions which held for many centuries|| (174).

Any study of the fifth century in British history and mainly about Anglo - Saxons origins, culture and religion based upon three different sources. First of all, the works of

Gildas Sapiens , a monk of the sixth century who wrote great part of the British history and after Roman rule in his *De excidio et Conquesto Britanæ* (The Ruin and Conquest of Britain). Later, he became a saint. Gildas was most born in the late fifth century in the burgeoning state of Dumnonia in the far southwest of Britain, in the area which is today known as Cornwall.

Secondly, the most known author was very famous by the epithet “The Venerable Bede”, meaning the most respected. He was a monk in Northumbria. He was born in the second half of the seventh century. He was an author of forty four works. His gossip is to great extent derived from only one of his most famous writings: *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, written about 731AD. Indeed, Bede's mention of the arrival of Germanic peoples in Britain and their conflict with the native inhabitants of the island is burrowed from the writing of Gildas in his *De excidio* (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle).

In addition, according to various scholars, Bede offered his own contribution to the advancing account of the Anglo-Saxons change by identifying three main ethnicities of the invaders known as the Angles, Saxons. In his own words, Bede noted:

They came from three very powerful Germanic tribes, the Saxons, Angles and Jutes. The people of Kent and the inhabitants of the Isle of Wight are of Jutish origin, and also those opposite the Isle of Wight, that part of the kingdom of Wessex which is still today called the nation of the Jutes. From the Saxon country, that is, the district now known as Old Saxony came the East Saxons, the South Saxons, and the West Saxons (28).

Thirdly, the writing texts and fragments known in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles preserved in later compilations, poems and references by continental writers. The Anglo-

Saxon chronicle gives a year by year summary of events in the southern English kingdoms (Morgan 60-61).

Therefore, the early heathen poem of Beowulf also gives us a glimpse of their ideas and their mode of thought. The known physical characteristics of the race, the nature of the country which they inhabited, the analogy of other Germanic tribes, and the recent discoveries of prehistoric archaeology, all help us to piece out a fairly consistent picture of their appearance, their manner of life, and their rude political institutions (Morgan 60; Allen).

2. Culture

Anglo-Saxon culture was quite different from the culture that emerged in the high Middle Ages reflected in Chaucer (Ross). It was characterized and dominated by warfare and battle. In addition, bravery, generosity, loyalty and many other features are essentials and principal elements in their culture (Prezi). Furthermore, these people structured meetings in *mead halls* (a centralized buildings or neutral locations where no one would attack another tribe while in this communal hall. And the word mead is a fermented alcoholic beverage mixed with honey) where feasts, storytelling, and celebrations occurred.

In clothing, the Anglo Saxons man wore the robe or tunic gathered at the waist, completed by hose and soft shoes. For woman, the robe or dress extended to the feet. The usual materials were linen and woolens, the most expensive outfits being marked by colorful dyes and exotic borders. Brooches were used to fasten clothing by rich and poor, and a mullets of stone were worn for luck (Ross; Mason). And in food the crops most frequently grown were wheat, Oats, Rye, and barley (both as a cereal and as the base for beer) peas, beans, and lentils were also common food. Honey was the only sweetener in use, and it was used to make the alcoholic beverage mead. Pigs were a major food animal, as were cattle,

Goats and sheep. Horses and oxen were raised for heavy farm labour and transportation (Anglo-Saxon life.html).

Moreover, the language of the Anglo Saxons gave this land its name. Engla land, or England. During this period a distinct form of English lit developed and helped to define the English national character and identity (Ross). Nevertheless, this language is also called Old English. It consists of various dialects, and the simplified grammar, short words and syntax are involving in modern English today. Dr. Delahoyde in his text gives some features of old English used by these people:

Epithets were useful for alliteration, so God could be called "Weard" (guardian) or "Meatod" (measurer) or "Wuldor-Fæder" (glory-father) or "Drihten" (lord) or "Scyppend" (creator) or "Frea" (master), etc. A king could be a "ring-giver" or a "noble lord" or a "righteous guardian." A phrase replaces a simpler name.

3. Society

The society was divided into several classes: upper class headed by the king, second class included warriors and lower class of subjects and slaves. As it is noted that "Anglo-Saxon social structure consisted of tribal units led by chieftains "kings or lords" who, theoretically at least, earned their respect from their warriors or retainers, or "thanes," the group being called a comitatus (Delahoyde).

4. Religion

The Anglo Saxons were pagans when they came to Britain. Religion was not a source of spiritual revelation; it was a means of ensuring success in material things (Ross). They remained pagans even the Britons were converted to Christianity. They worshiped multiple gods and they have pantheon as that of ancient Greek people and Celts. They

worshipped gods of nature and held springs, wells, rocks, and trees in reverence (Ross). Moreover, the names of their gods are the names' days today. For instance, the dark god or the god of dark named Tiw which means Tuesday; the god of war Woden means Wednesday; god of thunder Thor for Thursday, and Frigga, the goddess of home means Friday (Delahoyde 2).

III. Modern British Society

The United Kingdom of Great Britain has always welcomed newcomers for centuries. Thus it can be said that Britain is a multicultural society because Britain is and has always been a mixed race society. Early in its history was invaded by the so called Celts, Romans, Saxons, Vikings and Norman's armies and later Africans were brought to Britain by force in the 17th and 18th centuries as slaves or servants. Over the years, Thousands of people have arrived in Britain as refugees as well as Jewish people from France, Ireland, Russia and other countries escaping from persecution or famine in their own countries. About 8% of the populations of Britain today are people from other culture and ethnicities.

IV. The Myth of British Ancestry

By the eighteenth century many historical records argued that the Celts were the original inhabitants of British Isles and they are the true ancestors of British. But by the twentieth century theories emerged to argue that the Celts and Anglo-Saxons are not the first forefathers of British because there is no agreements among historical, archaeological and genetic studies about the exact location of the Celts. More surprisingly about this topic is that Celts and Saxons are the descendants of the Israelites tribes.

Conclusion

British island has consisted throughout recorded history of multiple cultural groups and identities. It can be told in terms of several waves of invaders; Iberians, Celts, Romans Anglo-Saxons and other new wave. Britain has always been a home to multiple people. That's why it is so much difficult to trace the true origin of the first inhabitants and it is so hard to give an asserted answer or data about these early people of Britain, because they left no accounts of themselves. Recently, the rise of new theories about the roots of British are really made us shocked especially that theory which claims that Celt and Saxons and British have Israelite origins. However, the next chapters deal with this in details.

Chapter Two

Israel (Ancient and Modern)

The study of ancient Israel and its history provides an examination of a society which is different from the present. The Israelite history enables to identify the origin of Israelites and their identity. Hence, the sense of the past provided identity for people and oriented them to narrative yielding aspects that endured far beyond their own time and place (Bill.T:1).

Thus, this chapter deals with the origin and ancestry of Israel as it provides some facts about the tribes of Israel and what happened to them, It also depicts the ancient Israel and Jewish cultural landscape. This chapter aims to represent the distinct between the terms Judaism, Israelite and Zionism. It also gives a note about modern or new Israel and its roots within the role of Britain in the establishment of Israelite state.

I. Defining Israel

According to the Hebrew Bible Israel refers to the new name that Adonai gave to Jacob (or Ya'aKov, meaning « heel holder » or « supplanter »), who was the son of Isaac, the grandson of Abraham, and the father of the twelve patriarchs of the tribes of Israel (Rev. Wild.D.D 06).

Furthermore, the name Israel *Yisrael* is formed from a word play using the verb *Yisresh*, the imperfect forms of Sara, meaning 'will fight', combined with the suffix -el (God), which is used to indicate the subject of the verb (Parsons 01). Etymologically, Israel means God Fights. The word play occurs in the phrase "for you have Stiven (Sarita) as a prince (Sar) with God and with men have prevailed" (Gen 32:28).

In his writings, John Parsons said that Israel also refers to the 70 descendant of Jacob who entered into Egypt (under the auspices of Joseph) and that later grew into a great nation during the time of the Pharaohs. During the time of Moses, The clan fathered by Jacob is

collectively called the children of Israel or Israelites. It is this group of 60.000 men(not including women and children)), that Moses led out of Egypt during (Yetziat Mitzrain), the Great Exodus from Egypt, and who established them as the covenant nation of the Lord under the terms of the Sinai covenant. It was this same group of people who, under the leadership of Joshua, began to take possession of the land originally promised to Abraham by God Almighty (01).

II. **Ancient Israel**

A. **Historical Overview**

Every people of certain civilization have their own culture, identity and history. The Jewish people also have their own history, a long history which depicts their past, life, society, their culture and religion. But according to Torah and Qur'an the Jewish people are different from all other nation in the world. Their genesis and origins are luminous and lightened but later on, their history was dark.

In ancient Israel the three great monotheistic religions of the world emerged; first Judaism, second Christianity, and later Islam. Ancient Israel dates back approximately 4000 years to the books of the Old Testament. The first inhabitants were called Hebrews who became the ancestors of Israelites and Jews. In his book *Early Israel*, Bright noted something important which in his view make ancient Israel different from her neighbours:

What is it that made Israel Israel? What made her different from her neighbours?

...It was not language, not habitat, not historical experience alone, not material culture—but faith. Israel was a people who became a people precisely because of her faith. The history of Israel, therefore, is not the history of a Twelve-Clan League, nor of a nation; it is a history of a faith and its people (114).

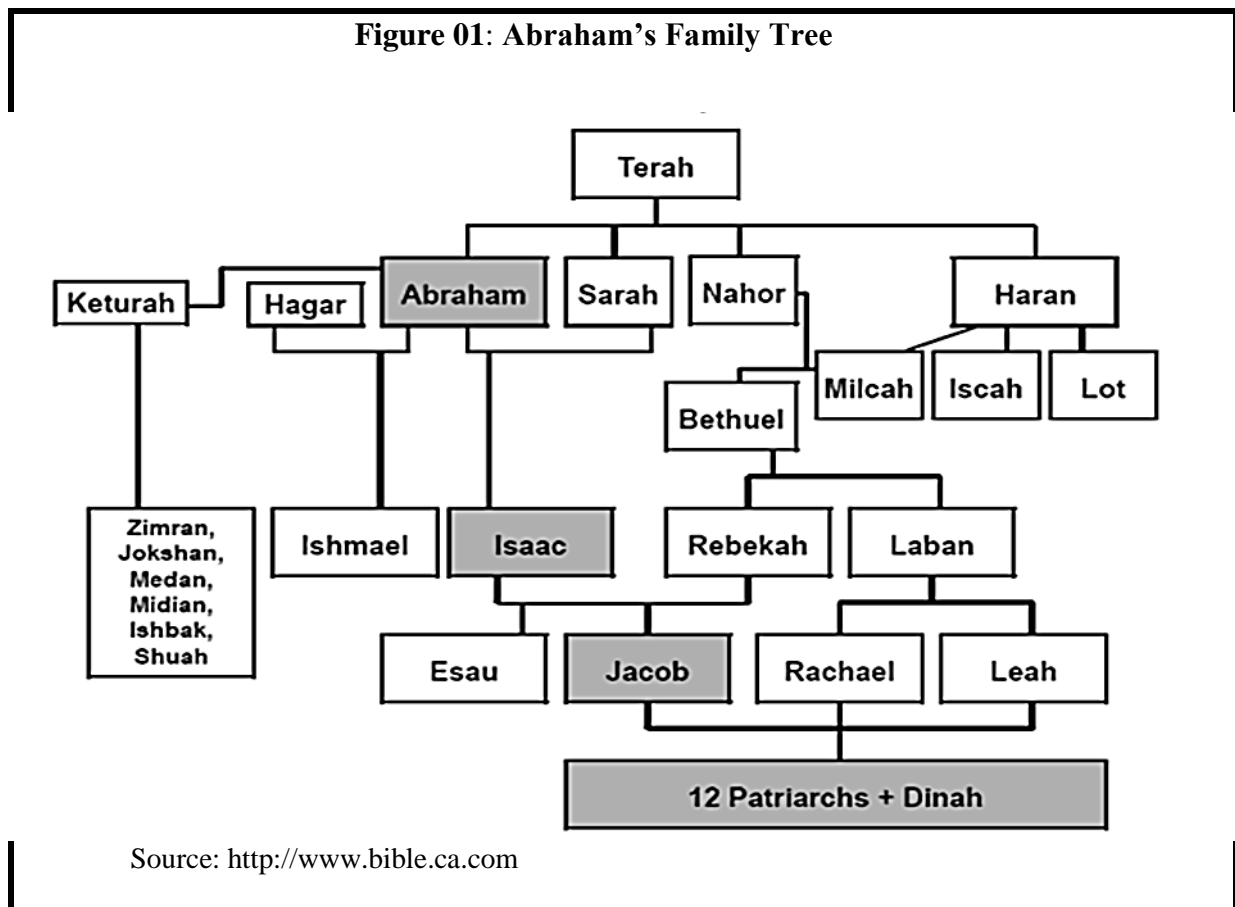
According to the Hebrew Bible and Qur'an these people had blessed origins but their generations were malignant because they disobeyed their God. They came from Mesopotamia and settled in Canaan. Today, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan occupy the land that was once Canaan. The first Israelites were the descendants of Prophet Jacob the grandson of the Prophet Abraham (Peace be upon him). The Book of Genesis relates how Abraham was summoned from Ur of the Chaldeans to Canaan to bring about the formation of a people with belief in the One God.

In other words, the people of ancient Israel according to biblical archaeology and Jewish traditions, were originally from Aramaic race and deeply rooted in the land of the Chaldeans, where the land of Ur which is located south of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and then Haran in the north. Haran is very famous historically, where father of Prophet Ibrahim or Abraham lived in. According to the Torah and Qur'an the Prophet (Peace upon him) is the father of all fathers, the fathers of all believers on the earth. God tell him to leave his land and his people and settle in the land of Canaan. He was named Hebrew, meaning cross, and Hebrews were nomadic people, they have certain system and laws organized their life (Wright 23-24).

Notwithstanding, God called Abraham to go from Ur to settle in Canaan, this is known in Torah and in biblical records as *The Call of Abraham*: “*The Lord had said to Abraham, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all people on earth will be blessed through you”* (Genesis 12:1-4). So, Abraham left, as the LORD had told him (Lewis).

Therefore, God made a covenant with Abraham. This covenant includes four promises: 1) God would make Abraham's descendants a great nation. 2) God would blessed Abraham materially and make his name great. 3) God would protect Abraham by blessing those that blessed him and cursing those that opposed him. 4) God would bless all the families of the earth through Abraham. However, God was promising to do these things and nothing could prevent it (Dr. Wilson).

In short, the land of Canaan would belong to Abraham and his descendants. According to the Qur'an and the Hebrew Bible Abraham had two sons Ismail and Isaac and later he had a grandson named Jacob. Jacob was called also Israel and his name was given later to his twelve sons (12 tribes of Israel). The following figure shows the Abraham's family tree:



In his own words Bill .T. Arnold depicts the common ancestry of Jews and Israelites:

The people of Israel were just that: a people who recognized their origin from a common ancestor and were joined in kinship with one another through families and tribes whose lines traced back to a common origin. The land that produced the wealth for Israel to live as it did was recognized as a gift from God. God gave this land at a historical point in time through the disenfranchisement of the Canaanite peoples. The land was then allotted to families, and these inherited estates were passed down through history (02).

After the death of Solomon, the tribes of Israel split into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom named Israel and southern kingdom named Judah centred in Jerusalem. The two kingdoms often fought with one another until the Assyrian Empire conquered the northern kingdom around 721Bc.the Assyrians forced 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel (the first Diaspora) and brought un foreigners to resettle the land (called Samaritans). Later, the Babylonians sought to expand its influence by forcing Judah into submission. Shortly thereafter, the Babylonian army attacked Judah and took more captives to Babylon (the prophet Ezekiel, one more captives, explained that God was allowing Babylon to punish Judah because the people had been unfaithful to God).the aggression of Babylon continued until they destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple that Solomon built (C.586Bc). Most of the remaining Jews were taken away as captives to Babylon.

After the death of Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian Empire was conquered Cyrus the Great (C.539BC) the king of the Medo-Persian Empire whom God anointed as a 'messiahn" by giving the Jews returned to Judah and began to rebuild the Temple (C.536 BC).The Temple was consecrated exactly 70 years after the Babylonians had destroyed it (C.586 BC).

The Greeks began their rise to power under the Great, who defeated the Persian armies on Macedonia (333BC) and eventually conquered the land of Palestine. Later, a Greek ruler named Antiochus Epiphanies ruled Syria (from about 175Bc to about 164 BC). Antiochus also ruled over Judah and tried to destroy the Jewish religion by defiling the Temple and burning copies of Torah .This led to the Maccabean revolt which opened the way for Jewish independence in Jerusalem and the Surrounding area .This victory is commemorated during Chanukah.

After the death of Alexander the Greek, the Greek empire was divided up among four generals, which weekend the empire. Eventually the Romans invaded Syria (under the leadership of Pompey) and Jerusalem fell under Roman rule .A while later Jesus was born and performed His ministry to captive Israel. Several years after Jesus was crucified, the Roman Army (under Titus) destroyed Jerusalem and Herod's Temple (70 AD) in fulfilment of Jesus prophecy (Matt. 24:1-2).

Later in 135 AD, the Romans (under Hadrian) suppressed the Barkochba uprising, completely destroying the Holy City of Jerusalem, and sending all the Jews into exile. In an attempt to end all Jewish hope for an independent states Hadrian renamed the land from Judaea to Palestine -after the Jews historic enemies- the Philistines .This is the start of the Great Jewish Diaspora or the second Diaspora (Parsons 3).

B. The Tribes of Israel

The tribes of Israel are the traditional division of the ancient Jewish people (Encyclopedia Judaica). They are twelve tribes as follow: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin, and the two josph's sons Manasseh and Ephraim who lead Israel later. The following table (table 01) shows the

names of the tribes within their meaning, and a map (map01) shows the places where each tribe settle in.

Map (01): the twelve tribes of Israel from Joshua to Saul



Source: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org>

Table (01): the names of Israelites sons and their meaning according to Hebrew

bible

Name	Meaning in Hebrew	Explanation (NRSV translation)	Ref.
Reuben	"see, a son"	Leah: "Because the Lord has looked on my affliction; surely now my husband will love me."	Gen 29:32
Simeon	shama = "heard"	Leah: "Because the Lord has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also."	Gen 29:33
Levi	lawah = "joined"	Leah: "Now this time my husband will be joined to me, because I have borne him three sons."	Gen 29:34
Judah	hodah = "praise"	Leah: "This time I will praise the Lord."	Gen 29:35
Dan	"he judged"	Rachel: "God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son."	Gen 30:6
Naphtali	niphtal = "wrestled"	Rachel: "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, and have prevailed."	Gen 30:8
Gad	"fortune"	Leah: "Good fortune."	Gen 30:11
Asher	"happy"	Leah: "Happy am I! For the women will call me happy."	Gen 30:13
Issachar	sakar = "hire; reward"	Leah: "God has given me hire because I gave my maid to my husband."	Gen 30:18
Zebulun	zabal = "honor"	Leah: "God has endowed me with a good dowry; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons."	Gen 30:20
Joseph	"he adds"	Rachel: "May the Lord add to me another son."	Gen 30:24
Benjamin	"son of the right hand" or "son of the South"	Rachel calls the baby "Ben-oni" ("son of my sorrow"); but Jacob calls him "Ben-jamin."	Gen 35:18
Manasseh	"making to forget"	Joseph: "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house."	Gen 41:51
Ephraim	"to be fruitful"	Joseph: "God has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortunes."	Gen 41:52

C. Ancient Israel Cultural Landscape

1. Culture

Jewish law set out many rules for Jews to follow that affected their daily life. These laws influenced their education. The food they ate, and even the clothes they wore. They also required Jews to provide for the poor, visit the sick ,do good deeds, give to charity, and apply just laws to rich and poor alike, The laws emphasized self-control and reminded Jews of their religion. In addition, The Jews placed great importance on family. Israel's family life was dominated by the husband (Pedersen 61). Sons were especially valued because they carried on the family name, upon a father's death; the son became head of the family.

Further, in ancient times, everyday meals were made up of fish, fruit, vegetables, and barley bread. Beverages included mainly milk, water, wine and beer. In clothing, Jewish law forbade mixing some fabrics. Some women used flax or wool to make cloth but did not combine the two. Jewish men wore tunics made of linen next to their skin. Some men layered another tunic on top of the first. In cold weather they wore wool or sheepskin cloaks. On their heads, they wore caps or turbans. On their feet, they wore sandals. Women dressed themselves in long, simple dresses. They covered their heads with shawls, Wealthy women wore leather shoes wore makeup, and owned Jewelry (Ancient Israelites Magazine).

Education was also important. Jewish children's first teachers were their mothers when sons grew old enough, fathers taught them how to earn an income and to worship God later, elders took over the religious education of boys and taught them the Torah, because reading the Torah was central to Jewish life, religious teachers became important community leaders. However, Mothers educated their daughters at home. The girls learned to be good wives, mothers and housekeepers. This included learning Jewish laws about food

and clothing. They also learned about the courageous women of ancient Israel (Ancient Israel in Biblical history).

2. Society

The society was governed on the basis of religious law that had been handed down to Moses by God. The Old Testament Israel had a patriarchal family structure: a patrilineal descent (through male line), a patrilocal residence (Biblical Studies).

Israelites lived in nuclear households during the time of the Biblical Judges, often with their relatives in clusters of houses around a common courtyard. Houses were made of mud brick with a stone foundation and perhaps a second story of wood. The living space of the houses consisted of three or four rooms, often with sleeping space on the roof or in a covered roof loft. One of the first-floor rooms was probably a courtyard for domestic animals, mostly sheep and goat (Biblical Archaeology).

3. Religion

The religion of these peoples was known as Judaism until today and from the same region emerged Christianity and Islam (Abrahamic religion). The *Torah* is the holy book of Judaism, the laws of the Jewish people. It is the first five books of the Christian *Bible*. The Torah is also known as the Five Books of Moses or the Pentateuch. And Talmud refers to books written to explain and interpret Jewish law like we have Hadith in Islam (Biblical History)

The Jewish have specific traditions and belief such as *Hanukkah*; it is holiday honors the rededication of the Second Temple. It is celebrated by lighting candles in a menorah. The eight days represent the amount of time the oil burned during the rededication. *High Holy Days* that is the first two days, Rosh Hashanah, celebrate the

beginning of the Jewish New Year. On Yom Kippur, the most holy day, they fast all day and ask God for forgiveness of their sins (World History, Biblical History).

III. Jew, Zionist, Israelite and Israeli are Distinct Terms

The terms Jew, Zionist Israelite and Israeli are with no doubt distinct and different. But Jews and Israelites are Hebrews and all Jews are Israelites because they are the descendants of the fourth Israelite son named Judah (Yehuda) from whom Jewish were named. At first point, a Jew is anyone who has a Jewish mother or who converted to Judaism in conformity with *Halacha*, Jewish religious law or constitution (Neuberger).

According to Halachic definition:

“According to a strict Halachic definition, the answer to the question of who is Jewish is clear. A Jew is someone who either ... is a child of a Jewish mother or is a Convert to Judaism who, after a period of serious and verified study of the Principles of the Faith and the Laws of Judaism, has done the following: Accepted upon him or herself the Yolk of the Kingdom of Heaven and the Yolk of God's Commandments, Immersed himself or herself in a Ritual Pool of Water known as a Mikveh, symbolizing Rebirth, if a male, has undergone the Process of Brit Milah” (Jewish 101).

Moreover, the word "Jew" is a fabricated word. It is not found in the Hebrew Scriptures or in the writings known as the Greek New Testament. The word Jew originated early in the 15th century because the letter "J" did not exist until introduced as a vowel difference by printers of early English Bible translations. In some English Bibles, the word Jews (the plural form) is used to replace the Aramaic word *Yahudim*, which would be a native or person dwelling on a portion of Palestinian land that was once known as the Kingdom of *Yahud*. However, unlike the word Jew or Jews, the word *Yahudim* would also

include people of any diverse racial groups who were living in the region of the Southern Kingdom of *Yahud*. Even the occupying Romans dwelling there during the First Century could be *Yahudim*. This is like using the word “American” to refer to any of the many diverse peoples that are living in the country called America (The Assembly of Yahweh, Cascade).

At the second point, Israelites refer to the Jews in Old Testament, while Israelis refer to people with Israeli citizenship after 1948 (Jernigan). Accordingly, it can be said that *Israelite* is the Biblical usage while Israeli is the modern usage. The professor Paul of The Washington State University stated that:

In modern English the term Israelite is usually confined to the people of ancient Israel, either the kingdom of that name or more broadly any Jew of the Biblical era. Only modern citizens of the state of Israel are called Israelis. Although the term most often refers to Jewish citizens of that state, it can also to Arab, Muslims, or Christian citizens of Israel.

At the third point, *Zionist* are the supporters and followers of the Zionist movement. Zionism is the national movement that espouses repatriation of Jews to their homeland - the Land of Israel - and the resumption of sovereign Jewish life there (Herzl 5). The origin of the word "Zionism" is the biblical word "Zion," a mountain in Palestine often used as a synonym for Jerusalem and the Land of Israel (Eretz Yisrael). Zionism is an ideology which expresses the yearning of Jews the world over for their historical homeland - Zion, the Land of Israel (Neuberger).

To sum up, according to all previous definitions, all the Jews are Israelites and of course not all Jews are Israelis today. All Zionists are Jews, but not all Jews are Zionists; Zionists are Israelis but neither Zionists are Israelites nor are Israelites Zionists.

IV. Modern Israel

1. Roots

Modern Israel originated in the Zionist movement which was established in the late 19th century. Zionist movement began in Europe in the late 18th century when Theodore Herzl, a journalist from Austria wrote a pamphlet, *The Jewish State*, which called for the creation of a Jewish nation as the solution for the Diaspora (Parsons 3). The establishment of a Jewish State was the only way of protecting Jews from anti-Semitism and persecutions (State of Israel Proclaimed). Herzl became the leader of Zionism and he organized the first World Zionist Congress, unifying diverse Zionist groups into a worldwide movement (parsons 3).

2. The Role of Britain in the Establishment of Israeli State

With the collapse of the Ottoman Empire during the World War I, Britain took control over Palestine. In 1917, Britain issued the 'Belfour Declaration' which declared its intent to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Under this declaration, the Jews were permitted to return to the Promised Land. Later, the Nazi's systematic murder, the *Holocaust*, killed of millions of Jews which caused a worldwide support for the Jews to establish the State of Israel as a permanent homeland. After, further immigration to Palestine, on May 14, 1948, the Jews declared independence for the democratic State of Israel (Medinat Yisrael) (Parsons 3).

V. Modern Israeli vs. Ancient Israelite

There is clear distinction between ancient Israelite environment and that of modern Israeli. Ancient Israel society was governed by Jewish religious constitution which

organized different aspects of their lives, culture, clothing, marriage and so on. In contrast, modern Israeli society is totally different where religion is absent in managing the society. It is not a pure society; it includes many ethnics, for examples two group of Jews: "Ashkenazi Jews" and the other group as "Sephardim Jews" or Sephardic Jews.

Moreover, according to Yussi in his book *The True Israelis* in an Arabic version which translated by Malik El-Budairi, modern Israeli society is definitively a political society in which politicians dominated all sectors and domains of economy, health, factories, arts and sports (My Trans).

Conclusion

The ancient Israelite civilization developed in Judah and Israel. These two kingdoms have common origins. They were descendants of Jacob the grandson of Abraham. They were guided by prophets in their early times like Joseph and Moses and later judges ruled over them and finally the kings as Saul the first king and after David, Solomon. The early Israelites settled in Canaan for many years before they were taken into captivity by Babylonians and Assyrians. And later their homeland was completely destroyed by the Romans. As a result they escaped and settled in different part of Europe, Africa, Australia and Asia. So the presentation of Jews in these places mainly in Europe and especially in Britain played a key role in preserving Jewish identity and keeping Jewish communities transient which would later provide an important role in inspiring Zionist movement by which the nation of Israel reborn and called 'Israeli state' which is totally a political state.

Chapter Three: British-Israel

The beginning of the 17th century saw the rise of hundreds of cults across Europe. The majority of these cults including what would later be known as British Israel or Anglo Israeli. This theory says that the British, Celts and Saxons peoples of the world are the modern continuation of ancient Israel, and they are direct biological descendants of the ten lost tribes of Israel. In other records the writers and fathers of this theory identified the British nation identity with Israel.

Thus, this chapter sheds some flashes of lights on the concept British- Israel. The first part of this chapter deals with the functions of British- Israel/ Anglo -Israel and demonstrates its main goals and purposes. The second part examines the identification of British, Celt and Saxons in the biblical Scripture which was mentioned by many British Israelites writers. The third part gives a general account of how ancient Israel differs from early Britain in terms of culture, history and religion. And finally it provides facts to examine the validity of British -Israel.

I. British –Israel

A. Definition and origin of British Israel

British Israel or British-Israelism, also known as Anglo-Israel, is the belief that the "lost ten tribes" of Israel migrated to Europe and then to England and became the primary ancestors of the British people and, thereby, the United States. British Israelis was made popular by the Worldwide Church of God and Herbert Armstrong, but other groups have held the doctrine as well (British-Israel.com).

According to *Encyclopaedia Judaica* "British-Israel, or Anglo-Israeli, is a theory that identifies the Anglo-Saxon race with the 'Ten Lost Tribes' of Israel. It is said that promises given to Israel in Scripture will be fulfilled in Britain, America, and other Anglo-Saxon countries (600).

Nevertheless, British-Israel provided the theological justification for the British Empire through the concept of 'birthright'. This was established through the prophecy that Abraham's descendants would be an invincible great nation, numerous as the dust of the earth, including multiple nations based in an isle of land that would control the earth. The descent of the ten tribes of Israel into idolatry and banishment into the wilderness, as God's punishment, provided the impetus for British-Israel to follow them to the British Isles. A combination of literal interpretation of Old Testament Scriptures and legendary history underpinned belief that the British were the spiritual and biological heirs of Abraham and the Royal family was directly descended from the David line of the tribe of Judah. This implied both the British Empire and Church of England were modern manifestations of the Kingdom of God justifying the British, as God's chosen people, rule of the earth (Simpson).

According to Altholz British-Israel can be defined as a variety of British nationalism buttressed by biblical references with all the attributes of a religious movement except religion (Altholz 130). The predominate idea of the British-Israel movement was that Great Britain was the home of one or all lost tribes of Israel implying that the inhabitants were God's Chosen People (Simpson 1). British Israel is a British-Jew trick to grab the world by turning God's truth into profanity (Peters 157). Furthermore, it can be defined as a cult:

British Israelism is a syncretic cult which, in its simplest variant, claims that the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic race is the true "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel," that the British sovereign is descended from King David, and, that as such, an all-encompassing British Empire is biblically prophesied to rule the world in the few final days before Jesus Christ touches down on the Mount of Olives and ends human history (Thompson and Minnicino 36).

More specifically, the followers and writers of British Israel believed that the emergence of British Empire -within British Commonwealth which take control over great parts in the world- and America on the world scene is the fulfillment of an ancient prophecy and promise made concerning the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh (Foundation of Sand 2). They believed that Ephraim was predicted to be a “company of nations” referring to Great Britain and that Manasseh who gave birth to great nation belonging to America. However, as the British Empire expanded more and more and took control over many paths, people believed in British Israel’s tents since the country’s growth of power was seen as divine blessing (Foundation of Sand1).

Nevertheless, British Israel has political meaning and purpose behind its religious function. According to the research about the functions of this concept, it seemed that British Israel means Communism and in other records means Masonry. “British Israel is British Communism and it is spreading its subversion and subterfuge under the cloak of religion and what's more it is using the Christian religion (Peters 118). Further, British Israel or British Communism can be identified and it can be understood, though it is very important to understand that it has no organizational structure but is promoted within existing institutions. It’s essential dogma is the coming of the kingdom of God on earth with Divine law and Divine government (120).

B. Roots of British-Israel

The origins of British Israel are a subject of debate. But some supporters and followers of this theory traced its roots to the Elizabethan Era in England where the Church of England was unified and the narrative of British Empire within its huge navy began, Accordingly Thompson and Michael in their work. Noted that:

The roots of British Israelism are obscure, but some trace it to the late Elizabethan period in England, a time which coincided with the consolidation of the Church of England, and the beginnings of Britain's maritime empire, as well as the creation of a full-time secret intelligence service. One person who is reputed to have contributed to the early development of the British Israel ideology is John Dee, a Fellow of Trinity College and adviser to Queen Elizabeth, who openly practiced black magic and prophesy, and was among the first to talk of England as an empire. Also, Sir Francis Drake, Elizabeth's favorite pirate, was notoriously partial to describing the fledgling empire of England as "Israel" "New Jerusalem" (36).

Moreover, British- Israelism began first in England, and then it spread to the United States (Thompson and Minnicino 37). British-Israelites writers cite several accounts demonstrating the origins of the movement to medieval periods. But British-Israel as distinct movement appeared in the years 1880's:

Although scattered British Israel societies are known to have existed as early as 1872, there was at first no real move to develop an organization beyond the small groups of believers which had arisen spontaneously. The beginnings of the movement as an identifiable religious force can, therefore, be more accurately placed in the 1880's when the circumstances of the time were particularly propitious for the appearance of a movement so imperialistically-orientated (Wilson 41-57)

Indeed, earlier aspects of British Israel and influences are traced back to Richard Brothers in 1794, John Wilson's *Our Israelitish Origins* (1840s), and John Pym Yeatman's

The Shemetic Origin of the Nations of Western Europe (1879). In 1875, J. C. Gawler published *Our Scythian Ancestors* which is considered an influential text to the British Israel movement.

C. Goals

- The primary goal behind British Israel is to claim that England and the United States have inherited the covenant promises God made to Israel.
- The English throne is the throne of David;
- Seek control over world.
- All people are descended from Israel.

D. British-Israel Doctrine

There has been much written upon the asserted identity of the British race with the Israelites of the Ten Tribes (Garnier). The main basis of British-Israel doctrine is that the ten tribes of Israel are the ancestors of western and northern European peoples mainly Britain and Ireland. And that the royal family of British Empire is directly the descendants of David throne.

The Tribes of Judah and the Tribes of Israel are not one and the same. Israel and Judah were once united. Saul, in about 1117 B.C.E., first ruled over a 'united' kingdom of Israel and Judah (1 Samuel 8:4- 9). But then in about 998 B.C.E. the kingdom was split in two after the death of Solomon. The Tribes of Judah supported King Rehoboam, while the Tribes of Israel supported Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:29-37). The distinction between the Tribes of Israel and Judah is made clear when we see that there was even conflict between them on

occasion (1 Kings 14:30; 15:7, 16). In his accounts about this distinction between Judah and Israel, Rev. W.H Poole states:

It must be remembered that these Kingdom (i.e:Judah and Israel) had a separate history, each entirely distinct from the other. The two-tribed Kingdom of Judah is not the ten tribed Kingdom of Israel. The Jews are one people, the last tribes are another. The Jews are, of course, of Israel, as a tree has an existence independent of the stock from which it was taken. The ten tribes are not addressed as Jews, nor are they known as such. The term Israelite is a general term, including the whole Hebrew race. Every Jew is of course an Israelite, but all Israelites are not Britons are not scotch men. We find such terms as the whole house of Israel and all Israel applied to them (10).

Poole, Wilson, Hine and many other adherents of British-Israel state passages from scriptures to argue the distinction between Judah and Israel as follow:

- Israel was to be known in name, Isa. IXV ch,15
- The Jews were to be known as a by- Word and reproach, Jer .XXIV ch,9
- Israel was to be a multitudinous people, HOS. I ch, 10
- The Jews were to be bereft of children, JerXV, ch,7
- Israel was to be a powerful nation, Isra,XL,ch,12,MIC,iv ch,6,7
- The Jews were to be without might, Jer, XIX ch,7
- Israel was to be wonder for many years, and then to find an island home in the western seas, Isa, XLIX ch,I,8

- The Jews were to be strangers in all lands, Jer,XV,ch,4
- Israel was to be have the kingdom, and a national existence, and a perpetual monarchy, and that monarchy of David's line, Jer,XXXiii,ch,21,22.
- The Jews were never to be a nation, or to have a king, until their union with Israel and their acceptance of Jews as their Messiah, Zech, ixch,13,and xch,6.
- Israel was divorced from the law.
- The Jews were to remain under the law, until the fullness of the gentiles
- Israel was to a Christian people, all thought of God, liv ch,13
- The Israel was to remain under the old covenant.
- Israel was to be driven out of their land sown among nations, last to view, to be sought out and found, and to become the sons of God and then, to be used for the conversion of the world.
- The Jews were to remain separated from all nations, destined to persecution and reproach.
- Israel was to lose their old name, and to be called by another name.
- The Jews were to retain their old name, and their identity.(1,P:10:Ibid)
- Israel was taken by Shalmaneser and Tiglath-Pileser to the cities of Medes.
- The Jews were taken by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon.(p:11,Ibid).
- Israelites were all taken, not one of them was left, 2kings, xvii Ch. 18.
- The poorer class among the Jews were left Jer. XP ch,7
- Israel was to be lost, unknown and unrecognized, Hos. i ch,7

- Judah was to scattered, and dispersed but known, Ezek. Xii ch,15.of Israel was to come the multitudinous seed, The fullness of the gentiles.
- Of Judah, or the Jews, was to came the one seed, Christ.

E. The Lost Tribes of Israel

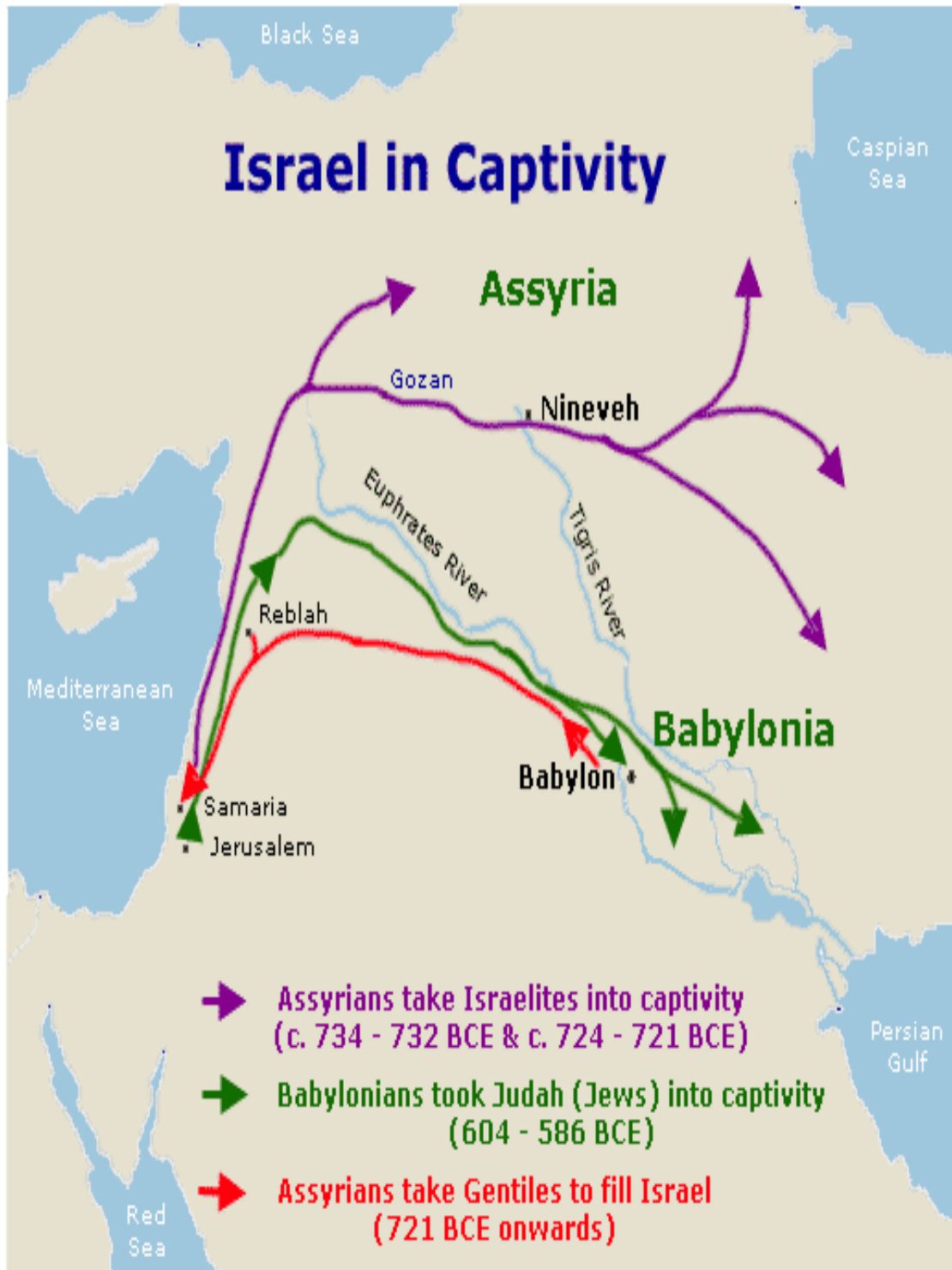
After the death of Solomon, Kingdom of Israel split into two (northern kingdom Israel and southern kingdom Judah). According to Old Testament, the northern Kingdom of Israel was conquered and fell in the hands of Assyrians in 722 BCE, and later this Kingdom was destroyed by the Roman invasion. However, the people of Israel disappeared to unknown place. Thus, the scattered people were known as the ‘Lost Tribes of Israel’ while, Judah was eventually destroyed by Babylon in 586 BCE and inhabitants were held in captivity (called the Exile or Babylonian Captivity) Emergence of synagogues and rabbis during Exile Released by Persians in 538 BCE and returned to Jerusalem to rebuild temple.

Map 02: The kingdom of Judah and Israel



Source: <http://www.Bible.ca.com>

Map 03 : Israelites in the Captivity



Source : <http://www.bible.ca.com>

F. Identification of Britain in Scriptures

There are mountains of cleverly written pamphlets and books promoting British-Israel. “Various theories, one more far-fetched than the other, have been adduced, on the flimsiest of evidence, to identify different peoples with the ten lost tribes” (Greer).

The word Celt is the anglicised form of the Greek word *keltoi*, which means the people who are different in Scripture, all nations except the twelve tribes of Israel, are referred to as gentiles (foreigners), so the only people who are different are Israel. The word Celt is therefore another word for Israelite, the Celts are part of the ten lost tribes of Israel, as are the Tuatha de Danaan and Milesians. The Irish people are a mixture of Celts, Danaan, Milesians, Judah, Zarahites (of the red hand - Gen 38:28-3), (Danish) Vikings and Norsemen and are all racially cousins. Deuteronomy (u:2 for Thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself above all the nations that are upon earth. (special different (Oxford dictionary))). Therefore the Celts, according to God are Israelite. (Poole; E. Hine; Garnier; J. Wilson,)

The word British is not English, it is Hebrew, Brit (Berit) means covenant in Hebrew and Welsh. ‘*Ish*’ means ‘man’ or people of, in Hebrew and English. Therefore British means the people of the covenant, in other words, the people Israel of the Covenant. However, the Celtic/Irish people are Israelites descended from Jacob/Israel’s fifth of his twelve sons, who was called Dan and fathered the Tuatha de Danaan and the tribes of Dan (the Irish and Danish), therefore, the Irish people are Celtic/British. Israelites by British i.e. people of the covenant in the Torah in the Bible and in the Ark (J. Wilson).

II. British-Israel is fact or myth?

First of all, it should be give something about previous studies in the first and second chapter as an attempt to depict in which extent British differ from ancient Israelites. There is clear distinction between Israelites and British peoples. British nation and Israelites nation identities are different. It is totally wrong to identify the British Nation Identity with Israel. According to the two previous chapters ancient Israel civilization and that of British Isles emerged in different space and time. They have different ancestors and different roots. The Celts and Anglo-Saxons of British Isles were polytheists. They worshipped multiple gods and goddesses before they were converted to Christianity, whereas the ancient Israelites were monotheists. They believed only in one true God named Yahweh according to their traditions. Moreover, the Celtic and Anglo-Saxons have specific culture which distinguished them from other peoples. Their customs, food, clothes, ceremonies, burials, their society are all different from the Israelites' customs, traditions, way of life, ceremonies and so on, because the Israelite society and culture dominated and governed by Halachic laws and traditions. In short, the Celts and Anglo-Saxons differ from Ancient Israelites in terms of culture, religion and traditions.

Second, the archaeological studies and genetic analysis remain invalid. Even though archaeologists and genetic scholars used specific techniques to determine the origins of these people, they face some problems. Because they just try to piece out a picture of a society and culture of people in the past but they can't give exact dates and places to valid their evidence. Thus, the archaeological and genetic could be changed over time. However the theory which said that the lost tribes of Israel settle in Europe especially in the North, in Britain and Ireland is fiction. Accordingly, McDonald declared that:

The concept that the ten tribes moved to Europe is a complete myth nothing not archaeology, cultural history, or linguistics--gives the slightest credibility to this myth--or to the similar myth that the French are descendants of the Trojans. The Scots have a similar myth that they are descendants of the ancient Hebrews, and similar claims of descent from other ancient peoples can be found for virtually every group in Europe — all no more than absolute fantasy.

Third, according to religious records Noah (Prophet Nuh Peace upon him) has three sons: Sam, Ham, and Yafith (Japheth). God willed that only those three sons of Noah would have children, and that no one else on the ark would have children. Surah As-Saffat, verse 77, means that God made the children of Prophet Noah the ones from whom the people come. All the people nowadays go back to those three sons.

Imam Ahmad Ibn Hambal narrated from the route of Samurah, the son of Jundub that the Prophet said, “Sam is the forefather of the Arabs, Ham is the forefather of the Abyssinians, and Yafith is the forefather of the first Romans (Greeks).” Sa'id the son of Musayyab said that the three sons of Noah each gave birth to three. As to Sam, he gave birth to the Arabs, Persians and Romans. He said that Yafith gave birth to the Turks, Sicilians, and Gog and Magog. He said that Ham gave birth to the Copts of Egypt, the Sudanese and the Berbers (of North Africa) (Islamic house of wisdom).

And according to biblical records, Japheth is the forefather of Caucasus, Slavic, Cecily, Turks, Germans, and other European peoples. Each of Hebrews, Assyrians, Aramaic, are the descendants of Sam. And Ham is the forefather of northern African peoples such as Egyptians and few of Jews.

Finally, there is no historical or Scriptural reason for saying that the British peoples are the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel (Greer). As The Encyclopedia Britannica says, “The theory [of BritishIsraelism] rests on premises which are deemed by scholars - both theological and anthropological - to be utterly unsound” (41) The British-Israel theory is wrong. In Time magazine, he noted, “The British-Israel theory is complete nonsense, as anyone with the slightest knowledge of history, anthropology or philology can tell” (Silverman5).

General Conclusion

British Isles was a home of multiple groups of people. In earlier times Britain was inhabited by the CELTS (500 BC-100 BC). The Romans called these people 'Britons'. The term Celt is derived from the Greek word *keltói*, a generic term used to call European barbarians from the Danube to the Atlantic. These first settlers were warriors, farmers and hunters. They found out how to make iron tools and weapons, hence this period is known as 'The Iron Age'. Social life was organized in clans, bound together with other clans into tribes. They built a number of hill forts, small ditches on hilltops mainly to defend themselves and keep out intruders. They lived in scattered villages and rounded huts with a thatched roof. They were pagan, believed in many gods and goddesses and worshipped natural elements; druids were main figures in society, they were priests, teachers, political advisors and were the link between the supernatural world and the ordinary human one. They were able to predict the future and had a good grasp of medicine and mathematics.

But the true origin of these people is still subject of debate. According to several historical records, researchers, scholars and historians disagree about the origin of the so-called Celts. They cannot know for sure and what they exactly did come from. Other scholars point out that the shores of the Black sea as the possible homeland of the Celts. All what the scholars do agree about is that these people came to Britain by the early seventh century BC, as well as they agreed that these people migrated in different progressive waves. Moreover, all the information and knowledge about the Celtic peoples based upon different resources: in the work of classical writers especially Greek and Roman writers, in the work of Strabo, Herodotus, and Caesar Julius and other writings of medieval age. And from Their oral traditions which survive through storytelling. And finally, the archaeological findings which tried to piece out a picture of Celtic culture.

The other wave of settlers was the most powerful Germanic tribes (Jutes, Angles, and Saxons). They called Anglo-Saxons. They were originally pagans in religion and their gods' names are the names of days today. They were highly courage and skilled. Their society was divided into several classes headed by king, then class of freemen including two levels; Thanes and Ceorls. Their culture was dominated by warfare. The Anglo-Saxons were also warlike as the Celts. Their language is called Old English. The epic poem Beowulf also gives a picture about the Anglo-Saxon society. All what was written about these people was from the works of Gildas, the Venerable Bede, from archaeological excavations and the oral traditions of these people.

Thus, British Island has consisted, throughout the historical records, of several different peoples that provide a multiple cultural groups and identities. That's why it seems too hard for scholars and historians to demonstrate the true first inhabitants of British Isles because these peoples have left no written records and accounts of themselves. However, scholars agree that the Celts and Anglo-Saxons are the forefathers of British.

All what was written and know about the early Israelites comes only from their own resources, from Hebrew Bible and other extra -biblical studies. Ancient Israel is the birthplace of the three great monotheistic religions of the world: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It dates back approximately 4000 years to the books of the Old Testament. The first Israelites traced back their origins from Abraham who was Hebrew. Hebrew means "From the other side of the river"- name given to Abraham and his followers. The Israelites are the twelve sons of Abraham's grandson Jacob who renamed Israel which means "he who has wrestled with God". Thus, His descendants were called "Israelites" or "Tribes of Israel" or the "Twelve Patriarchs of Israel". Further, the name *Jews* was named after Jacob's son Judah, ancient father of tribe of King David's dynasty.

In their early times Israelites were governed and led by Prophets, then Judges and later by Kings. They were united into one kingdom under their first King Saul, and then David became the second king of Israelite kingdom. After, Solomon became king and expanded the kingdom and trade. He made allies with nearby kingdoms such as Phoenicia and Egypt. Trade with these kingdoms made Israel very rich and by that wealth which came from trade Solomon built a temple to God for worshipping in Jerusalem (Temple of Solomon) which symbolized Jewish traditions. After Solomon's death the Israelites revolted and split into two kingdoms, Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Unfortunately, both kingdoms were conquered and took into captivity by Assyrians and the Babylonians. However, the Jews went through a period of enslavement called the Babylonian Captivity. The Persians took over and allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem. Some did not return, however, and settled in other parts of the Persian Empire. Scholars call the scattering of the Jews outside Canaan the Diaspora

Hebrew society was governed by men but women had few rights. They had to obey their fathers and husbands. They couldn't choose their own husbands. A woman could not inherit property unless she had no brothers. Some of them such as Queen Esther, the judge Deborah, and Miriam (the sister of Moses) made great contributions to society. They had specific celebration related to their religious rituals. They were farmers and herders, and their daily life, food, customs, clothing, marriage are governed by Jewish laws and constitution called Halacha.

Therefore, after the second Diaspora or great Diaspora, however, there was an emergence of Jewish communities in various parts of the world developed different customs, including language and rituals. One of the two traditions, Ashkenazim, is made up of Jews who moved to France, Germany, and Eastern Europe. They developed their own language

called Yiddish. Another group of descendants, called the Sephardim, lived in what is now Spain and Portugal. They mixed with non-Jews, borrowing elements from their culture and producing a golden age of Jewish culture. These communities shaped the modern Israeli state which originated in the Zionist movement.

In the late 17th century, Europe saw the emergence of several movements, among them British-Israel which claims that the people of Western and Northern descent are the direct lineal descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes of the ancient Israelites, particularly in Great Britain. The doctrine often includes the tenet that the British Royal Family is directly descended from the line of King David. It had various supporters and writers such as Wilson, Poole and others who argued that the tribes of Israel after captivity never lost and appeared in Great Britain and they are the true forefathers of British.

To sum up, from this study it can be said that the British-Israel theory is a lie. It seems illogical that the British are the direct descendants of ancient Israelite tribes. This theory's writers and leaders misinterpreted the Scriptures to make it true just to achieve their goals and take control over the world. After the examination of the two claims that the tribes of Israel were lost and then these tribes migrated to England, British-Israel theory is totally wrong and it is just a myth.

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