

The Stories Of Lost Israel In Folklore



APPENDIX

THE STRANGEST ALIAS IN HISTORY

MANY REASONS AND MOTIVES have prompted men to assume other names. Circumstances have arisen which, for the sake of protection, have called for an alias. The hiding of a man's identity beneath an assumed name has enabled him to pass unnoticed where recognition would have involved peril. One of the most difficult tasks of police authorities is to strip a suspected person of any aliases under which he or she may have been living in order to disclose the individual's true identity. Men have mysteriously disappeared from their frequented environments by the simple device of changing their names. Memory is short and a person is soon forgotten, although he may be still living in very close proximity to his former surroundings. Thus, the use of an alias is an extremely effective means of obscuring identity.

A Whole Race Disappears

Only once in human history, with its multitudinous vagaries, has it been recorded that a whole race completely disappeared from sight, seeming to leave no trace behind it. So completely was its identity obliterated that, although still in existence and better known to the whole world than any of its contemporaries, the nations comprising it having a foremost place in history and envied by those striving for world dominion, it still passes unrecognised by the world generally as to its true identity.

A commonwealth of nations and a great nation living under an alias! Truth is often stranger than fiction and it would need the pen of a genius and the imagination of some great writer to vividly depict and weave into story form this hiding of nations and the obscuring of their identity while they unobtrusively play the greatest role that has even been the lot of any race in the unfolding drama of human relationships.

How comparatively few who read the best-known Book in the world have discovered in it this strange story. How comparatively few have realized

that the Bible contains a story thread at all, much less that it is the story of the people created by Almighty God for world service, with a Divine pledge of imperishability, destined at the end of its long journey to lead the nations of the world into the Kingdom of God on earth and to consummate the Divine purpose of blessing every family of the human race. The nations formed by that people are to become the focal centre of world destiny upon which the eyes of the whole world look and to which they turn for guidance, help and deliverance - yet all the while their true identity is unrecognized. This is no mere fiction; it is actual truth and fact. With cynical smile, scoffing word or impatient, incredulous gesture, men dismiss as the fad of a fanatic or the warped idea of a crank the suggestion that, in spite of all their boasted sagacity, they have failed to identify the best-known nations in the world. But so it was intended. How perfectly the alias hides its secret! How completely the identity remains obscured!

The Reason for the Alias

Surely there must be a reason - an important reason - for this remarkable alias? Surely behind what it conceals there must be a Master Mind? It is that reason and that Master Mind which make the story live. How thrilling it must be to pass unnoticed while rubbing shoulders with one's fellows, listening to what they say about one, sharing with them things held in common, all the time wondering at their blindness in failing to see the obvious. And more so since a part of the story in the Bible offers a minute description of the people in question, a vivid word picture so clear in detail that, once attention is drawn to it, one wonders how it could ever have been missed.

It is like the hidden figure intertwined in some drawing which challenges us to find it. How we look and turn the drawing about from side to side, upside down and at every angle. But once it has been found, it stares out at us every time we look at it and we wonder how it could have been possible not to see it before. So it is with the national alias. The national instruments for world blessing march down their prescribed avenues of world history to do a work they could not have done were it universally known who they really are.

The Missed Story of the Bible

Because the story of the Bible has been missed, the story of the alias has been overlooked as well. How hard it is to wean ourselves away from traditional beliefs and the confused vocabulary by which men endeavour to interpret the Scriptures. Accepted theology has obscured perfectly plain meanings and common sense has become confused by involved explanations and complicated exegeses. Why not call a spade a spade; why not believe that God means what He says and says what He means in intelligible language. God has planned it that His purposes shall be perfectly clear to all so that "the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein" (Isa. 35:8). When He uses a symbol, He so states. When He employs figurative language, it is obvious. When He speaks in terms of literal history or narrative, He means it to be taken as such. It is this confusing of vital issues which has caused the ordinary reader to miss the story of the Bible. He has been made afraid to take things literally and, when he has had the courage to do so, the Church has resented his action as an infringement of its prerogative to interpret.

A People hidden for 2,520 Years

The strangest alias of history is written in terms of simple, everyday language. For over 2,520 years God has had a people in the world living under an alias. It is only now, in the days in which you and I live, that the identity of the people so hidden is due to be revealed. The specified time period of the alias is terminating. The time for the greatest discovery of history is at hand. Slowly but surely world events are lifting the veil and disclosing the origin and the identity of what has for so long been the greatest enigma of human happening.

Let us await God's time; it is not for us to run before history, however eager we may be to make the facts known. To allow our impatience to anticipate God is to betray an ignorance of the Divine purpose or a failure to trust Him to do in His own way and time what He has promised to do. It is not for us to play the role of the private detective, but rather to watch with deepening interest and wonderment how He is carrying through His design. We may often have wondered why our well-meant efforts in public

and in private to explain the alias have met with, to us, an inexplicable countermove that has frustrated our efforts. Is it not the evident sign that we have been premature in our eagerness to hurry things? To force open a door so carefully kept closed before the opening time is to hinder rather than help.

"He that believeth shall not make haste." Yet it is the very thing we, in our earnestness, wish most of all to do. Why won't people listen? Why can't they see? Some have even wanted a national proclamation to be issued, identifying the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples with Israel of old, or have deplored the fact that the Christian Church cannot be compelled to see the truth so as to make an official declaration concerning the true identity of present-day Israel.

Why all this haste? Can we not trust God to do in His own time what, after all, concerns Him far more vitally than it can ever concern us? Shall we try to remember that not all have seen the hidden figure in the drawing - that they do not see what you or I may have discovered. May I urge you to bear with a word of exhortation? It is not our task to remove the national alias, however eager or earnest we may be to disclose the identity beneath it. Shall we try to understand that those closed doors, that opposition, that refusal or apparent unwillingness to listen, may be the very way, perhaps the only way, by which God is able to curb our impetuosity and so prevent our spoiling His plan?

This thing is too big, too world significant, too far-reaching to be rendered ineffective by well-meaning but mistaken human interference. World destiny is wrapped up in this alias. How lovingly God deals with us and our deep desire to help Him, but how often He must smile at our childlike lack of understanding while appreciating the motive that would persist in premature action. We want to move forward now — and He has waited patiently for 2,520 years for the very same thing!

Why the Alias Still Remains

What lies hidden beneath this alias? Why is it such a zealously-guarded secret? Sufficient information has already been revealed to let us know

that the British Commonwealth of free nations and the great people of the United States of America are no ordinary nations among the peoples of the world; that they are there for world service, for the uplift of mankind, for the maintenance of law and order and the establishment of the basic principles of righteousness, justice and freedom in the earth. With no uncertain voice the Holy Scriptures declare that the alias - the change of name - was given to the House of Jacob, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. That was the Divinely-appointed line through which blessing was to reach all mankind, the people called in the New Testament "the Commonwealth of Israel."

Make no mistake here, for this alias has nothing to do with the Jew of history. The Bible most plainly records that neither Abraham, nor Isaac, nor Jacob were Jews. Never has it been necessary or desired to change the name of the Jew. Nothing has ever hidden the identity of the Jew.

On the other hand, you know the story of Jacob, that moment in his career when he met God and wrestled with the Angel. It was the supreme crisis in his life and experience when his name was changed from Jacob to Israel. With a changed life and character he was to rule with God. The nations that came from him to play their great part in the world drama have to graduate in the same school. As he wrestled and prevailed, so must the Anglo-Saxon nations wrestle and prevail until their name, too, may be changed and the alias under which they have travelled down their predestined roads gives place to the name by which all shall know that they, too, rule with God for their blessing and for His glory.

Today we are passing through the time of national Jacob's trouble, which is leading us out into the time of renewal, readiness and worthiness to receive the new name, that of Israel. We are facing our Peniel in this welter of tribulation and tears in order that we, like Jacob, may learn to depend utterly upon God alone; that we, like Jacob, may realize that we dare not let God go until He blesses us. When that day dawns, God will be able to trust us with that name of which He is a part, Isra-el (ruling with God).

The identity is all right; nothing changes that. That has never been in question. The main issue is, When shall we be able to have it made known

that we have prevailed with God, taken our place on His side, forsaken our old evil ways, and have been changed and renewed? Then, and only then, will the world know "whose we are and whom we serve."

Must we cease, then, to proclaim our identity? Why should we? It is part of the Divine plan; part of the Bible story. We must continue to proclaim it so that those who have eyes to see and ears to hear may see and hear, although the majority remain in ignorance. But let us proclaim it in its right setting - proclaim the struggle that will bring the nation out of the night into the day as we pass over and out of the old life into the new, no more Jacob, but Israel. Then will the strangest alias of all history yield its long-guarded secret and the whole world will rejoice. Thereupon, triumphant voices will be raised in exaltation: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. . . And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." (Isa. 60:1-3)

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