

# LECTURE TOUR



**"In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality." Acts 10:34**

## LOST TRIBES SEMINAR

*The public lecture tour of Dr David Lewis and Mr Melvin Rhodes took place in the first half of July in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. Dr Lewis's lectures are summarised for the newsletter.*

The seminar began in Brisbane on Saturday, June 26 with a United Church of God service at 10:00 am. Ninety-five people attended. Guest speaker, Dr David Lewis (*pictured top right*) from the Eagle Rock congregation in Los Angeles, spoke on the first of his three subjects – *The Calling of Israel*. Some notable highlights follow:

God's purpose is to reconcile all humanity. He is no respecter of persons. Rabbinic tradition interprets the seventy bullocks sacrificed at the Feast of Tabernacles (*Numbers 29:12-32*) as representing the seventy nations of the world who, during the millennium, are reconciled to God. Another Rabbinic tradition maintains that God offered all nations His way of life, but they refused. God then chose Israel to set an example. Scriptures show there is no room for racism in the life of a Christian: *...how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. (Acts 10:34), ...there is no Greek nor Jew, ....barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is in all (Colossians 3:11)*. The promise to Abraham in *Genesis 12:3* was that *...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you (NIV)*.

Ishmael was the son of Abraham and he was promised that... *your descendants will be too numerous to count (Genesis 16:10)*. In 600 AD, under Mohammed, the Arab nations rose to prominence while Europe languished in the *Dark Ages*. Today Arab nations number some 400 million and sit atop some of the richest oil real estate. No one denies where the descendants of Ishmael are today. If God fulfilled his promise to Ishmael, would He not do so for Isaac?

Austrian archaeologists have found what they believe to be Joseph's palace in Egypt. Tombs of what are thought to be plague victims and of the firstborn of Egypt have also been found. Joseph's Egyptian title can be translated, *Saviour of*

*the World*. Some of the nations descended from Ephraim and Manasseh (America, Canada, Australia) fed most of the world after World War II from their stored grain, just like Joseph. Jacob crossed hands over Ephraim and Manasseh forming a cross. The cross design of the Union Jack is seen by some as a symbol of this event.

After lunch the second session began at 1:30 pm with 145 in attendance. A deaf group with sign interpreter attended both afternoon lectures. The subject was, *Evidence for the migration of the ten tribes*. A summary follows:

Archaeology documents that after the population of Israel was removed during the captivity, Israelite pottery suddenly disappears and is replaced by Assyrian buildings. Jewish scholars recognise the ten tribes cannot be found amongst the Jews, but are lost. Danish scholar Anne Kristensen says the Cimmerians were Israelite deportees. Scythians as a people traced their origins back to Moses and 1500 BC. Legends tell of them moving into the Ukraine, Romania and to the shores of the Black Sea. Odin, in 256 AD, tells of migrations of Scythians, Parthians and White Syrians to Scandinavia. Another settlement of the deported Israelites was Parthia. Parthians meant *Exiles*. They spoke Aramaic, the most similar language to the celtic languages of today.

There was a break for afternoon tea and then the final session focussed on characteristics of the tribes and how they relate today. 125 were in attendance.

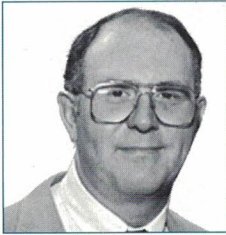
***We have just had the most brilliant, exhilarating weekend with Melvin Rhodes and David Lewis! It has been a real spiritual high....The lectures themselves were so packed with knowledge I'm definitely in information overload...David has the most incredible wealth of knowledge... people were intrigued at the detail he could go into....***

*A member of the audience*

Some highlights were:

**Reuben** (France) was the firstborn and was to....*excel in honour, excel in power (Genesis 49:3)*. Louis the XIV typified France's grandeur and French armies were a bulwark in Europe allowing Ephraim freedom to pursue trade in the West. France was the first nation to become a power but its instability in government became a weakness.

**Zebulon** (Holland) had a sailing ship as a symbol. *Genesis 49:13* says...*become a haven for ships* and *Deuteronomy*



# STRIVING FOR

“...By this all will know that you are n

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33:19...they will feast on the abundance of the seas, on the treasures hidden in the sand. The Dutch have reclaimed their land from the sea and South Africa has great wealth from diamond mines.

Dan as a *serpent by the way* is understood as a serpent biting at your legs, indicating guerilla warfare as in the IRA problems. Northern Ireland would be identified as Judah and Simeon; Southern Ireland as Dan. The Simeni (from Simeon) were a warlike tribe of Celtic peoples in Britain.

## STAYING STEADFAST...

There's an interesting scripture in *Revelation 3:11* that is very relevant to the circumstances in which we find ourselves in the Church: *Behold, I come quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.* I am reminded of this scripture whenever I visit other church areas. Travel is always an opportunity to see old friends and, invariably, I find each time I return to a place somebody I have known for many years is no longer attending our fellowship. Quite often their departure is a result of not having taken to heart this verse.

The fact is many people leave their congregation because of a *man*. They may reason they are not really leaving the Church because they are still a part of the Body of Christ, but leaving a fellowship after many years is very sad and rarely necessary. Some who depart then become angry over something in the past, and may subsequently turn their backs on following God at all.

The words, *Behold, I come quickly*, seem to be aimed particularly at those who will live until the return of Christ. Even if we don't live until then, Christ's return is still sudden in the sense we don't know when we will die and our next moment of consciousness will be in the resurrection. So, *Hold fast what you have...* Hold tight to the truth and to your calling, always keeping focussed on the ultimate goal, which is the kingdom of God. Do not become discouraged even when others around you may be going through periods of discouragement. Realise *His grace is sufficient for you (II Cor 12:9)*.

There are two main ways in which another man can be a stumbling block to us. One way is if we follow a man who is seeking *the preeminence (III John 9)*, desiring to be elevated above others, rather than humbling himself as the Apostle Paul admonishes us to do. *Philippians 2:3* reminds us: *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

Sometimes people will follow a man who has revealed *new truth* to them. In my experience, *new truth* is usually an old debate, resurfaced. We must be careful to study the matter and get advice. If we still feel our new understanding is right, we need to consider if it's really necessary to depart from our fellowship because of it. So often one man discovers *new truth*, then teaches it to others stirring up controversy and causing division among the brethren. Nobody would admit to seeking a following, but that's

***Dr David Lewis's experience...was evident. It was extremely interesting to see how some of the latest discoveries in archaeology and historical research can add colour and texture to the biblical narrative. After all, it is always nice to have historical support for a doctrinal perspective.***

*A member of the audience*

**Manasseh** was to be a single nation and the name means *causing to forget*, referring to Joseph forgetting his difficult early life. Today Manasseh tends to want to forget Europe and be isolationist. They love new approaches, and don't cling to tradition as Europe does. When God said Manasseh would be *a great nation a superpower* is meant.

**Ephraim** was to be *doubly fruitful and restored*, referring to preserving tradition. England threw out the monarchy, then in 1660 restored it again. Australia, starting as a penal colony, in a short space of 200 years became *the lucky country* and is a good illustration of being doubly bountiful.

The meeting ended at 5 pm with some discussion afterwards. Most literature on display was taken and a number of requests placed to receive the booklet on the lost tribes in prophecy when it becomes available. The entire day was profitable for members and the public alike. □

*Graenme Marshall*

### Audio Tapes Available

**Four audio tapes of Dr David Lewis's lectures are available, as well as four audio tapes of Mr Melvin Rhodes's lectures. Contact the National Office to request your copies.**