

## E-mail from Rick Sherrod to an acquaintance:

**From:** Rick Sherrod <[rickyrun@hotmail.com](mailto:rickyrun@hotmail.com)>

**Date:** October 21, 2013 at 13:24:35 PDT

**To:**

**Subject: RE: Your Old Subject**

Hi xxxxxxxxxxxx,

Good as always to hear from you. I envy your travel opportunities, especially since lately I'm going far afield if I make it out of Erath County.

As for the proposal, indeed John Halford and I wrote the piece up for Greg Albrecht. Greg gave us an absolute page limit beyond which we were not to go. So, predictably, John (quite purposely and wilfully) wrote a position paper that was one-half a page longer than the maximum Greg allowed. I bet you're not surprised.

The paper was, of course, summarily dismissed; then, hung, drawn, and quartered, I suspect by the neo-intellectuals bandits who commandeered the old WCG (that other "universe" to which you refer). For many years thereafter (i. e., since 1991), I had various electronic files of both the position paper (written almost entirely by John), as well as a booklet I prepared circa 1996-1997 for the then-nascent United Church of God. After I sent my tome to Cincinnati (? or wherever it was headquartered at the time), I never heard from UCG again about the project. I thought I had retained electronic copies of both manuscripts, but when a former student--Sharon Treybig (now Babcock)--wrote me earlier this year asking for my UCG booklet, alas, I could not find it anywhere in my electronic files. You might have some luck approaching Craig White in Australia. I'm pretty certain he posted one or both of these items on the Internet probably around 1998 or 1999 (I remember seeing one of them online). I never lodged any complaint since, so far as I was concerned at the time, it seemed like a good idea to make the information available for those who wanted it.

I think Craig was also responsible for a few other links relevant to the topic, e. g.,

<http://www.thejournal.org/articles/issue17/sherrod.html>

<http://www.thejournal.org/articles/issue16/sherrod.html>

I had to smile at your question concerning the Oxford dons. I *did* involve a "Don" who was probably the highest-ranking intellectual who I told about the project . . . but it was British historian Donald Lammers, my supervising professor at Michigan State University. To the extent that he contributed to the project, he merely found the idea of a Middle Eastern origin for the people of the British Isles to be a fascinating notion--one that some enterprising scholar might further explore. I doubt he would have warmed to the idea of the British being made up of descendants of ancient Israelites unless there was some pretty solid scientific evidence available. Meanwhile, in June 1991, John and I did intersect with a variety of people who were well acquainted with the overall argument, including a couple of barnacle-encrusted officials of the British-Israel World Federation somewhere down in southeastern England. My vestigial memory of the encounter is that neither of them cared very much for either of us.

As for scientific evidence, over the last decade, a lot of my personal research and exploration (not about the identity movement but primarily kinship as a discrete category of historical analysis applied specifically to class relationships in the antebellum American South--e. g., the photo album "Publications" on my Facebook page) has led me into contact with all the advances in DNA as a means to track ancestral origins and the migratory pathways of peoples into recent times as well as the indefinite, misty millennia of the past. I suppose the jury is still out in some respects, but everything I have seen suggests the inadequacy of our

old understanding that the modern-day English speaking peoples are largely descended from ancient Israel. The little exploration that I've done indicates that the Y-chromosome of today's Jewish people is not the same as the Y-chromosome commonly found among the vast majority of the Anglo-Saxons or Gaelic people (let alone the various permutations that we coaxed out of Genesis 49 to argue that each respective tribe could be identified with this or that modern-day northwestern European nationality). Even accounting for the possibility of mutation across several thousand years, given the relatively unchanging and stable nature of the Y-chromosome passed on patrilineally, it seems to me that there should be more DNA evidence apparent if all of these modern people, including the Anglo-Saxons, were descended from Jacob.

Perhaps the jury remains out, making the issue (as it always has been) a matter of faith rather than scientific proof. Whatever the case, to me, the main thrust of the Gospel (perhaps Hans Kung was more correct that I gave him credit at the time we SMU Twelve Apostles read that awful tome, *On Being Christian*) as well as general principles of Christian living far supersede the significance of things prophetic. And I suspect I'm probably preaching to the choir ;-)

On a more social note, I am very pleased to hear from you (I always am), and I hope you are cloaked in God's speed and safety in all your many travels. Thank you for your friendship and I hope that one day before everything is said and done this side of the Great Divide, our paths will cross again.

Warm Texas regards,

Old Ricky Lee

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