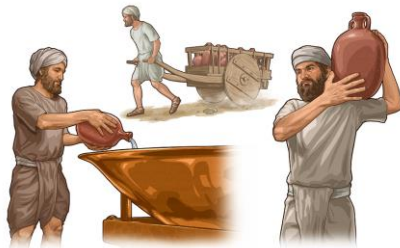


# WHERE ARE THE LEVITES TODAY?



Craig M White  
Version 1.5



## **Where are the Levites today?**

Authored by Craig Martin White.

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### **Bible study articles in this series:**

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- *Israel – the Apple of God's Eye*
- *The Fulfillments of Genesis 49*
- *Did God want or not want Israel to have a human king?*
- *Proposals for British and American World Union*
- *The British Sense of Mission as a Ruling People*
- *The True Roots and Origin of the Scots*
- *The Second Exodus and the Last Trump*
- *What will Israel be doing in the World Tomorrow?*
- *Feast of the Nations*

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Who are the Welsh? Why do there appear to be two or three physical types that are different to each other, however minor (much like the Scots)? Can we trace them back to their true origins and initial geographic location?

This article takes the position that most Welsh descend from Levi as do some of the Scots and others scattered throughout certain modern-day nations, the so-called 'lost' tribes of Israel.

Attempts at proving this position will be undertaken by utilising Bible prophecy, tribal names, the attributes of the Welsh as compared with the Levites and such like. Much of this comes down to plain common sense and obvious linkages that also can be supported by the historical record.

Of course, this is not meant to be a history lesson or detailed information about Wales or the Welsh – that has been covered infinitum in hundreds of works. I leverage off these works for the purpose of this article.

Nor is it meant to be a scientific, academic work of a hundred or more pages that few may want to read, would be too lengthy and circuitous and yet come to the same conclusions as a shorter article. As much as it is tempting to include huge amounts of data, such would be self-defeating and not assist in promulgating the message. On the other hand, an article that is too short would not give credence to the subject matter either.

As most readers would know, the Levites are part of the tribes of Israel – a part of yet separate to the 12 tribes – a sort of 13<sup>th</sup> tribe.<sup>1</sup> Their similarity to the Welsh is rather remarkable as we shall see. In fact, many within the British-Israel movement have noticed those similarities for over a century but a full treatise on the subject is yet to develop.

It is not only the British-Israelites who subscribe to this belief, but also many within the Church of God community. In 1986 I wrote to the office of the local Church of God about this matter and the response is contained below:

“You also asked for information indicating that the Welsh people are descended from the tribe of Levi.

“I am not aware of any publications or reference sources that mention this, but because there are several similarities in traits between the Welsh and Levites, it is most likely that they are the one and same people. For example, like the Levites, the Welsh are natural singers. There are also many place names in Wales that appear to correspond with Levitical surnames as recorded in the Bible” (*Letter to Craig White*, 4 August 1986).<sup>2</sup>

To me this was a of interest and together with some information scattered among British-Israel literature I had read a decade earlier, it seemed to me that more information could be found and assembled into a meaningful article.

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<sup>1</sup> Many nations had 12 tribe arrangements around the world, and this seems to be a natural order. Refer to John Michell and Christine Rhone, *Twelve Tribe Nations*.

<sup>2</sup> See also *Surnames in Wales, Ireland, Cornwall Genealogy, Isle of Man* by Penelope Christensen.

## Where are the Levites today?

During my recent reactivated research, I stumbled across a website with the following stated aims:

“The Merrick project is to identify members of the Royal House of Llewellyn of Wales and associated ancestors ...

“the line of Merrick came from the lineage of Merari right out of the Bible. It is a strong protestant line but with clear roots in the Hebrews of Israel and it's 12 tribes.

1 Chronicles|6:19 The sons of **Merari**; Mahli, and Mushi. And these are the families of the Levites according to their fathers.

1 Chronicles|6:29 The sons of **Merari**; Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzza his son, 1 Chronicles|6:30 Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, Asaiah his son. 1

Chronicles|6:31 And these are they whom David set over the service of song in the house of Yah, after that the ark had rest.

1 Chronicles|6:32 And they ministered before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of the congregation with singing, until Solomon had built the house of Yah in Jerusalem: and then they waited on their office according to their order...

So we can see from the DNA that a great deal of us can in fact find out WHO WE ARE and WHERE WE CAME FROM and know that the Genealogy and science line up to prove the facts. I am a LEVITE from the Tribe of Merari and my name is Daniel Merrick. I am Israel and an Heir to the promise by the adoption and restoration as promised in one of the oldest history books that mankind has, the Bible.” (Daniel Merrick, *Meyrick Merrick Family Project*, [www.familyreedna.com/groups/merrick/](http://www.familyreedna.com/groups/merrick/))<sup>3</sup>

I found it rather amazing that this family in Wales found their connections with ancient Levi! I thought that perhaps there are more Welsh than one thinks who believe in this connection.

Also, during my investigations, I stumbled across a booklet containing a sermon about the problems with monetary interest. It is titled *The Lombard-Street lecturer's late farewell sermon, answer'd: or, the Welsh Levite toss'd de novo. A dialogue between David J-nes and Dr. John Bastwick; and Lovewit and Fairman, two of his late parishioners. Addressed to the Bankers of Lombard-Street.* A rather lengthy title, but not uncommon for publications of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

What struck me is that the author identifies himself as the “Welsh Levite”. I do not know why this is the case, but it does raise eyebrows and causes one to pause and wonder if some of the protestant ministry in Britain of that time considered themselves descendants of the Levites.

As with other articles I have produced, much of my research is in storage, including notes (and highlighting of critical information in books and papers for additional use or quoting from) and therefore some articles are incomplete. I hope that someday I can use that research to ‘flesh’ out this and other articles to provide further justice to the subject matter.

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<sup>3</sup> “Manuscripts from Wales and England, the Vatican and Scotland, seem to be telling us a story which I have published in ‘The History and Genealogy of Merrick’ a compliment to the George Byron Merrick book from 1902. In addition I have one of the only surviving copies of Alice Meyrick’s Genealogy which recounts her work as an advisor to ‘Gone With The Wind’, the story of the southern Meyrick lines.

Also a sister project with the northern US branch of the family "Myrick" line with which we are sharing information.” ([www.familyreedna.com/groups/merrick/](http://www.familyreedna.com/groups/merrick/))

*Where are the Levites today?*

As always, we must make sure that we do not get carried away with a simplistic approach, or that of the non-believers nowadays whose works are very helpful in their technical and scientific detail, but which can blur our research with peripheral detail.

Where are the Levites today?

## ANCIENT LEVI

Let us commence with Levi's birth which is recorded in the first book of the Bible:

“Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, “Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore his name was called Levi.

And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.” (Gen 29:34-35)



The location of the tribes in the Holy Land

Levi means “attached” or “joined” indicating the following according to *Abarim Publications*:

### “Etymology of the name Levi

There is some controversy about the etymology of the name Levi. BDB Theological Dictionary suggests that the name Levi was derived from the word Levite, instead of vice versa, and that the word Levite has to do with a Minaean word for priest. Another suggestion is that the name Levi (לוי) is derived from the name Leah (לאה) and means Weary, rather than something else.

HAW Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament disagrees with this kind of 'strong disclaimers' and (as does NOBSE Study Bible Name List) derives the name Levi from the verb לוו (*lawa*) meaning join, be joined. This is the verb that

### Where are the Levites today?

Leah uses when she names Levi, "Now this time my husband will be joined to me, because I have borne to him three sons" (Genesis 29:34):

#### Excerpted from: Abarim Publications' Biblical Dictionary

##### לוה

The verb לוה (*lawa*) means to join or to connect things; it's a verb of building and it's also the verb that lies at the heart of intelligence, cognition and logical deduction.

A specialized usage of this verb speaks of the joining of two ends via a circular motion of sorts. Nouns לוייה (*lwiya a1*) and ליה (*loya*) describe a wreath; a circular, coiled or twisted band of leaves or twigs. A third specialized usage of our verb speaks of borrowing and lending.

##### Levi Meaning

In an absolute sense, the name Levi means **Joined** or **Coiler**, but judging from the context that also produced his name, the meaning of Joined is preferred. For a meaning of the name Levi, NOBSE Study Bible Name List reads **Joined**. Jones' Dictionary of Old Testament Proper Names offers the eloquent **Adhesion**.

In the theocratic structure of Israel the Levites were the people who promoted social cohesion. They had no land of their own but were dispersed among the tribes, infusing all of them equally with the same education and thus forging a unified national identity across the clans. **A similar function was assigned to the Celtic druids and the medieval European monks.**" [last sentence emphasis mine] ([www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Levi.html](http://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Levi.html))

It was a complete surprise to find that this Jewish publication draws a parallel with the Druids.

We can thus interpret their name to equate to their role: to serve the Lord and Israel in Priestly and other duties. In a sense they were on loan to the other tribes to educate them and to keep discipline.

He was the third son of his mother Leah (daughter of Laban), and his brothers were Reuben, Judah, Issachar, Simeon, Zebulun. His half brothers were Naphtali and Dan (sons of Bilhah); Asher and Gad (sons of Zilpah); and Benjamin and Joseph (sons of Rachel). Twelve in all.

Notice that the next to be born was Judah and these two brothers certainly have similar temperaments and are closely aligned, even in geographic proximity. The Levites were the religious leaders while Judah produced the political rulers and kingly line.

"Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords.

Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company. For in their anger they killed men, and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen.

Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel." (Gen 49:5-7)

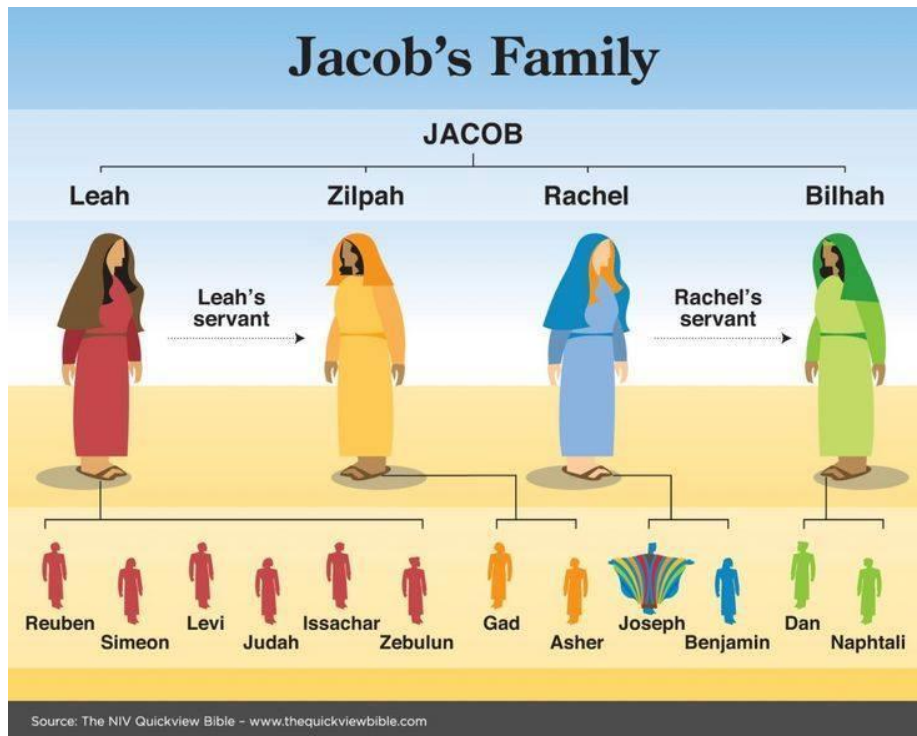
Simeon and Levi (and Judah) have similar characteristics – fierce, passionate and intelligent.

While there is some concentration of them in certain areas, they are also scattered due to their troublemaking and also for the need for Levitical teaching and leadership among the tribes of Israel (v 7). In this sense "scatter" is more like an ordered allocation of them among the tribes.



## Where are the Levites today?

Prominent Levites in the Bible included Moses and Aaron, Elijah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Haggai, Zechariah, John the Baptist.



Source: *The Quickview Bible*

In another prophecy we are told:

“And of Levi he said, “Give to Levi your Thummim, and your Urim to your godly one, whom you tested at Massah, with whom you quarreled at the waters of Meribah; who said of his father and mother, ‘I regard them not’; he disowned his brothers and ignored his children. For they observed your word and kept your covenant. They shall teach Jacob your rules and Israel your law; they shall put incense before you and whole burnt offerings on your altar. Bless, O LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands; crush the loins of his adversaries, of those who hate him, that they rise not again.” (Deut 33:8-11)

This prophecy shows us the role of Levi that it was to continue on into the Millennium and not merely during the time of ancient Israel. Where are they located today?

## Levi's Background

The book of Genesis makes it clear that the Levites have a violent background – their nature is fierce and explosive as we have seen. Due to the rape of their sister Dinah by the Hivite, Shechem (Gen 34:1-2), they slaughtered a city.

### *Where are the Levites today?*

They were able to do this via deception: they told the Shechem and his father Hamor that all the men of the city had to be circumcised to enable the marriage with Dinah to proceed (Gen 34:13-24).

Given the state that the men of the city were in after circumcision, this provided the ideal opportunity for the brothers to utilise their extreme behaviours on an entire city. While they slaughtered, the other brothers plundered (Gen 34:25-29).

The excuse to undertake such a horrific act was supposedly to protect Dinah's honour, but this did not please their father who anticipated that surrounding peoples would react to the slaughter (Gen 34:30-31). As we have seen, the blessing of Jacob in Gen 49:5-7 reflects this: they would be scattered or allocated among the tribes (this does not rule out concentrations of these people in various places) with the Simeonites allocation within Judah (Josh 19:1-9).

Similarly, due to his nature, Levi's descendants were not allocated a single tribal geographic area at that time, but instead were allocated among the tribes (Num 18:23-24; 35:1-8; Josh 21:1-45) – in this way they became the religious leaders and priesthood without a land allocation (Josh 13:14, 33; 14:3-4; 18:7). No land? No problem! God and the priesthood became their inheritance.

This Levitical allocation "out of the inheritance" of the tribes were 48 cities (Josh 21:3, 41-42) including the cities of refuge (Josh 21:13, 21-27, 32-38; Num 35:6). Instead of slaughtering indiscriminately, they now became the protectors of man slaughterers under certain circumstances.

But when it was necessary, their violent nature could be unleashed upon the apostate (Ex 32:25-29) in defence of the honor of God Himself.

The Levites held various offices such as that of judges, teachers (see Peter Leithart, "What is a Priest?", *Biblical Horizons*, Jan 1992, pp. 3-4) and many of their duties are mentioned in Num 1:50; Deut 10:8; 33:10; IIChron 17:7-9; 35:3; Neh 8:7-9; Mal 2:4-7. In this way they redeemed themselves and, in a sense, also their forefather.

Their violent nature extended to the daily slaughter of animals as part of the sacrificial system and also to function as the guardians of the Tabernacle and Temple (Num 1:53) as sort of 'warrior-priests'. They were to "work and keep" the sanctuary (Num 3:7-8; 8:26; 18:5-6).

While the nature of him and his descendants were violent (Gen 34:25-31), this could also be transferred to righteous wrath in service of God (Ex 32:26-28; Num 25:7-13; IIChron 23:1-9). They were therefore ideal for service in the ministerial and priestly capacity at the Tabernacle (Ex 38:21) and set aside for this purpose and for other offices of public service such as in the judiciary (Deut 17:9; Num 8:6, 10-15; IIChron 19:8, 11; Ezek 44:24 etc).

The Gershonites and Merarites handled the sanctuary (Num 7:1-8) but not the Kohathites (v 8; 4:15; Deut 10:8; IISam 6:6 – they were not permitted to touch the holy things). Refer also to IChron 13:9-10; Josh 3:3, 6, 8, 17; 4:9-10, 16-18.

Other duties included functioning as teachers and health inspectors (Deut 24:8; 31:9; 33:10; Mal 2:6; 3:7; IIChron 35:3; 17:7-9; Neh 8:7; Jer 2:8; 18:18; Ezek 44:23); and money collectors for the national income scheme (Num 18:24; IIChron 24:4-11).

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Although young men or men of households were initially to be family priests (Ex 13:1-2, 16; 19:22-24; 22:29; 24:5; 34:20; Num 8:16-18; Deut 15:19-21; Ps 89:27), the Levites were given this special calling – as a bloodline of priests and religious servants (Num 3:12, 41, 45; 8:16-18) and recognised as men of God (Jud 17:8-13; 18:2-6) who remained strong during times of anarchy etc (Jud 17:6; 18:1; 19:1-2).

As we have seen, the Levites were not numbered with Israel (Num 1:47-53) and had no inheritance in the farmlands (Num 2:17, 33; 26:62; Josh 14:3-4; 18:7; Deut 10:9). But they seemed to be closely aligned with or associated with the ruling tribe of Judah and in fact, may have had proportionately more of their number dwelling within the Judaic tribal boundaries than amongst the other tribes (Jud 17:7; IIChron 30:25). Also, they were to be well looked after (Deut 12:12, 18-19; 14:27-29; 16:11, 14; 18:1-6; 26:11-13).

In summary, they were dispersed (in a controlled and organised way – an allocation) among the Israelitish tribes to teach them the Laws of God and to maintain discipline (Lev 25:32-34; Num 35:1-8; Josh 21:1-8, 41; Ezek 45:1).

In Num 4:23 and 8:24 they are ordered to “come to duty” or to “do the work”. On the surface this seems to be a general comment to undertake their Levitical duties, but in reality, it extends deeper: it refers to going to war (compare Num 1:3) – the verb *tsaba* is connected to the name *YHWH Sabaoth* or the *Lord of Hosts*.

The sense we get is that the Levitical work around the Tabernacle, in teaching the Israelites and in violently putting down apostasy, was considered a sort of spiritual warfare. This is something a Christian would identify with (Matt 11:12; IICor 10:4; IITim 2:3).

At times they kept faithful to God (Ex 32:26; Num 25:11-13; Deut 33:8-11; ISam 6:15; IISam 15:24; IKings 8:1-6).

Yet at other times they let down and had to be purified (Ezra 9:1; IIChron 24:5; Neh 7:1; 11:20; 12:30; 13:28-30; Ezek 43:19; Zech 12;11-13; Mal 2:1-8; 3:3).

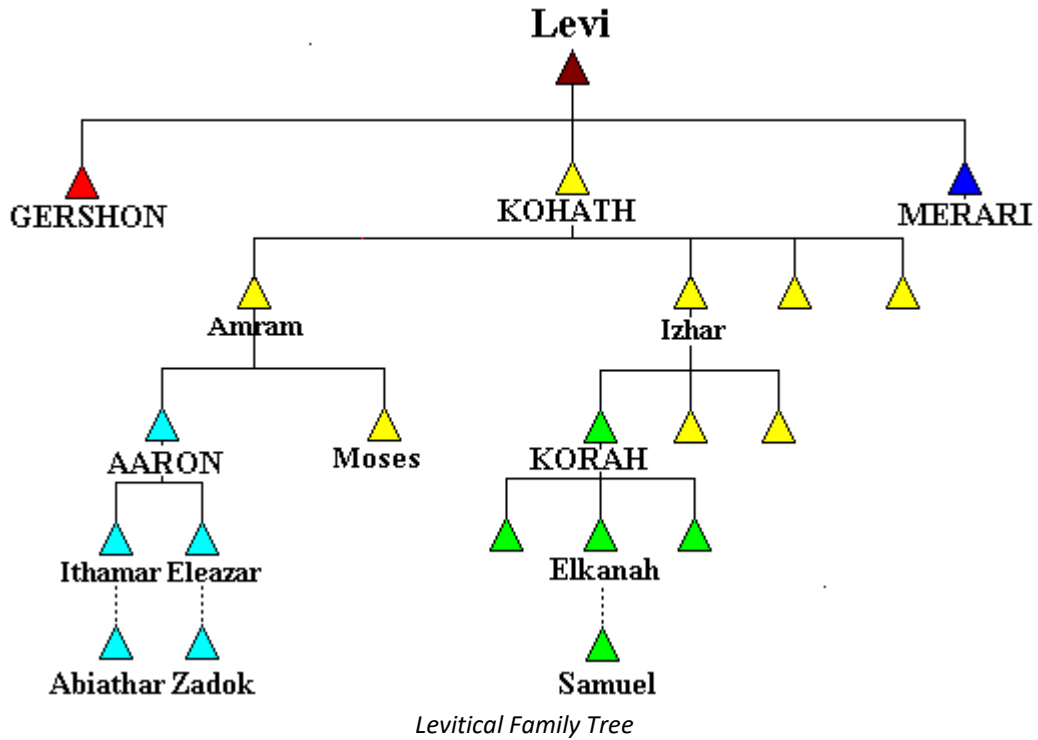
### **Descendants of Levi**

Those born into this bloodline became the religious teachers and leaders and inherited various privileges of office by virtue of birth. Their role was effectively suspended late in the first century until the time of the Messiah, but the Levites are still extant somewhere on this planet. Whom are they? Where do they reside? And by nature, do they still tend to religious roles?

The descendants of Levi are layed out in the chart below. He had three sons (Gen 46:11) and a number of grandsons etc.

His sons were Gershon, Kohath, Merari and it may be that the clans named after them may still be identified.

Where are the Levites today?

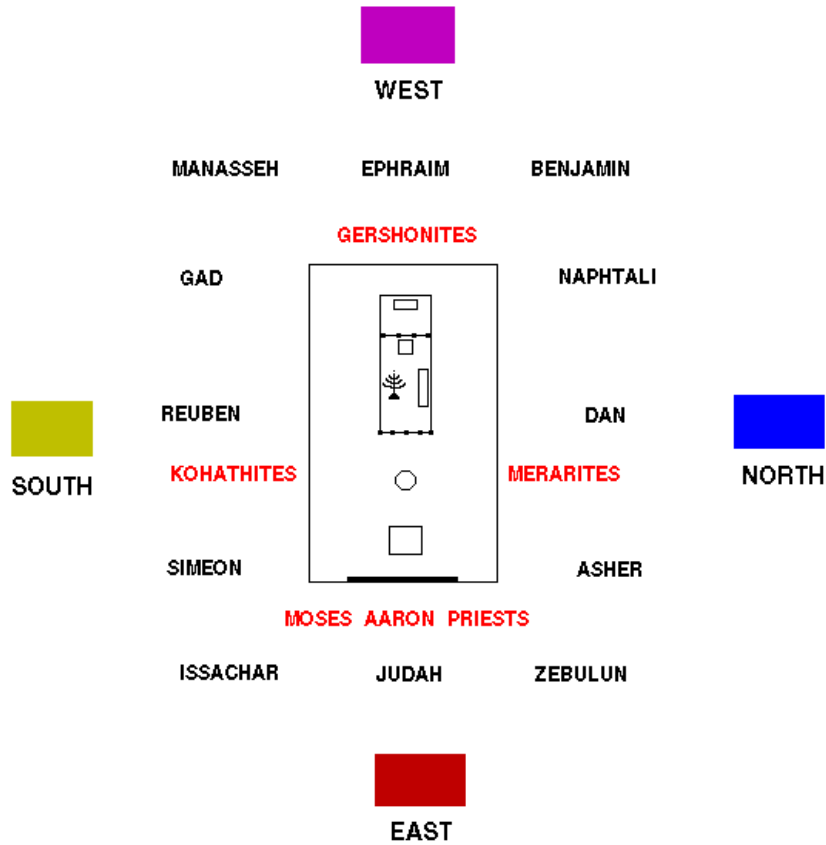


When one examines the tabernacle arrangement (below) of where the various tribes are located, we find that the Judahites are at the helm, in the leadership position. Surrounding and protecting the tabernacle are the Levitical families of the Kohathites, Gershonites and Merarites. In the front, behind Judah, were Moses, Aaron and the priests.

“[Levites had a] monopoly of national honors, giving the Leah descended priests (who in practice are absorbed into Judah) the exclusive right and privilege of administering the relationship between Jehovah and Israel.” (Louis Wallis, *The Bible and Modern Belief*, p. 25)

Later there was a concentration of Levites around Jerusalem, but the majority were allocated across Israel to teach the way of God and to keep internal discipline. Rebellion by Israelites was dealt with by fury and violence – more on this nature will be covered in this article.

Where are the Levites today?



Arrangement of the tribes in the Wilderness wanderings

### Suggested Further Reading on the Tribes of Israel

- “Did any of the Lost Tribes go North?”, *Origin of Nations*, Vol. 1, No. 3, by John Hulley
- *Israel in Prophecy* by Rick Sherrod.
- *Judah’s Sceptre and Joseph’s Birthright* by John Allen.
- *Lost Tribes of Israel – Found!* by Steven Collins.

## MIGRATIONS OF LEVI

Many Levites moved to Judah prior to the Assyrian invasions (IIChron 11:13-17; 13:8-14).

In the south, others dwelt among Benjamin and Judah and joined them in captivity (Ezra 1:5; 2:40, 70; 6:16; John 1:19) - many, but by no means all returned to the holy land with a portion of Judah under Ezra and Nehemiah.

Those that stayed with the northern tribes were taken into captivity by the Assyrians to Halah, Habor, Harah etc (IChron 5:26) in northwest Iran and eastern Turkey where the Cimmerians arose. Can this tribe be traced from this region to Wales?

### The Cimmerians

In ancient times, Assyria emperor Tiglath-Pileser II mentions the removal of the Israelites from the land of Beth-Khumri (the land of Israel) to Assyria (c 740BC).

Other clues include the name of Crimea, the *Gumri* River near the Caucasus, the area of Kamir west of the Caucasus. *Cimmeroi*, *Gimir* and *Gimmiri* all appear to be derivations of Cimmerian.

One author, M. Guizot wrote about them in the mid-nineteenth century:

"From the seventh to the fourth century B.C., a new population spread over Gaul, not at once, but by a series of invasions, of which the two principal took place at the two extremes of that epoch. They called themselves KYMRIANS or KIMRIANS ... the name of a people whom the Greeks placed on the western bank of the Black Sea and in the CIMMERIAN peninsula, called to this day CRIMEA" (*The History of France from Earliest Times to 1848*, p. 16).

"The Cimmerians may have appeared south of the Caucasus already in the 720s B.C." (Marek Olbrycht, *The Cimmerian problem re-examined: the evidence of the Classical sources in Collectanea Celto-Asiatic Cracoviensia*, p. 90)

Prominent Danish linguist, respected in her field, Anne Kristensen in her work *Who were the Cimmerians, and Where did they come from?: Sargon II, the Cimmerians, and Rusa I* argues for identifying them with the Israelites, admitting that at first, she was dubious with this find. This appears to be a unique position amongst non-British-Israel scholars.

"There is scarcely reason, any longer, to doubt the exciting and verily astonishing assertion propounded by the students of the Ten Tribes that the Israelites deported from Bit Humria, of the House of 'Omri, are identical with the Gimirraja of the Assyrian sources. Everything indicates that Israelite deportees did not vanish from the picture but that, abroad, under new conditions, they continued to leave their mark on history." (pp. 126-127)<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Aryeh Kaplan in his *The Living Torah* wrote: "The Cimerians were seen as originally having been a Nordic people (*Odyssey* 11:18-19). Some sources identify them with the Cimbri of Jutland (around Denmark), a nation of Teutonized Celts." (p. 21). See also *Critique of Anne Kristensen's "Who were the Cimmerians ...?" in Archiv Fur Orientforschung*, Vol. 37, pp. 143-45.

Later we find a people known as the *Laevi* (= Levites?) among the Gauls so this might indicate that some found their way into that area.<sup>5</sup>

Concerning the Cimmerians, they are referred to as a people that were seemingly distinct from the Scythians (the term Scythian was broad, covering a number of peoples and ascertaining who is who amongst them is known as the 'Scytho-Sarmatian problem'.<sup>6</sup>)

Similarly, it is quite possible that more than one people were known as Cimmerians: some were Nordic and Celtic looking, while others were Alpine. What we know of them is that they were in the area we know today as Azerbaijan in the late 8<sup>th</sup> century BC (around 715BC) and the following two centuries in the area of Ukraine.<sup>7</sup>

British-Israelite scholars have written on the identification of the Cimmerians (and Scythians) with the 'lost' tribes of Israel for over 140 years. Refer to the **Appendix. Who were the Cimmerians/Welsh? Tribe of Levi** for further evidence.

The Welsh should be described as the *Cymry* or *Khumry* rather than Celts, after all that is what they name themselves. Could this description be derived in some way from *Cimmerian*?

William Rees in *An Historical Atlas of Wales* has a map plate 5 (b) showing migrations from the eastern Mediterranean to Spain and thence to Ireland, Wales and Scotland during the early Megalithic Culture and Early Bronze ages (i.e., after the Noahic flood until around 1500-1400BC which is roughly the time of the Exodus).<sup>8</sup>

Plate 22 on early Wales (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Centuries) shows that the Severn River was known as the *Habren* – does this derive from Hebrews (i.e., Eber or Heber found in Gen 10:21, 25?) Is it

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God prophesied in the Bible, "In Isaac your seed shall be called" (Gen. 21:12) and the Saxons or Sacsons are, in fact, the sons of (I)saca from which the word Scythian originated. Yusifov actually calls them the Cimmero-Scythians in his work "On the Scythians in Mannea" (pp. 349-356). In footnote 33 he states: "The mention of the Cimmerians with the Scythians in the texts of Esarhaddon in the region of Mannea and Media suggested to I.M. Diakonoff (IM 265) that the sources understood Scythians also under the name Cimmerians." (p. 356)

<sup>5</sup> "Eth. **LAEVI** or LAĪ (Λάϊοι), a tribe of Cisalpine Gauls, who dwelt near the sources of the river Padus. This is the statement of Polybius (2.17), who associates them with the Libicii (Λεβέκιοι), and says that the two tribes occupied the part of the plains of Cisalpine Gaul nearest to the sources of the Padus, and next to them came the Insubres. He distinctly reckons them among the Gaulish tribes who had crossed the Alps and settled in the plains of Northern Italy: on the other hand., both Livy and Pliny call them Ligurians. (Liv. 5.35; Plin. Nat. 3.17. s. 21.) The reading in the passage of Livy is, indeed, very uncertain; but he would appear to agree with Pliny in placing them in the neighbourhood of Ticinum. Pliny even ascribes the foundation of that city to the Laevi, in conjunction with the Marici, a name otherwise wholly unknown, but apparently also a Ligurian tribe. There can be no doubt that in this part of Italy tribes of Gaulish and Ligurian origin were very much intermixed, and probably the latter were in many cases confounded with the Gauls." (William Smith, *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography*, art. "Laevi"). There is also the ancient Laviana province northwest Spain.

<sup>6</sup> For example, Marek Olbrycht, *The Cimmerian problem re-examined: the evidence of the Classical sources in Collectanea Celto-Asiatic Cracoviensia*: "... the Cimmerians were of Iranian stock ... In fact, it is highly probable that **the term Cimmerians designated a tribal entity which was not homogenous**. In a similar way, Herodotus called different steppe peoples *Scythians* for they were dominated by a tribe designated by this name" (p. 93) [emphasis mine]

<sup>7</sup> An interesting read is *Cimmerians in Eastern European History* by Valentyn Stetsyuk. Refer also to his paper *Cimbri-Cymry*, pp. 9-10.

<sup>8</sup> Interestingly, that "Around A.D. 400, it is thought that considerable numbers of Brythonic-speaking Celts moved, or were moved, from what is now southern Scotland and north-eastern England into north-west Wales ... and their conquests by the eighth century covered most of northern, western and south-western Wales. Recent work has shown that they must have been very little different from the Iron Age B hill-fort dwellers in that they were racially akin to them and spoke a Brythonic dialect of Celtic speech" (Emryn Bowen, *Wales. A Physical, Historical and Regional Geography*, p. 138). [emphasis mine] This has been confirmed by other sources I have read.

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possible that some place names could somehow derive from their Israelitish routes after such tedious and lengthy migrations and language change?

What of Welsh place names such as Leweston, Luelyston, Leweleston, Lewellyston, Lewelston, Lywellston, Leweston and Lewel. Do they not remind one of Levi? What of Amlwch, Pwllheli, Liverpool, Holywell, Colwyn Bay? Is it possible that in some convoluted way the name of their forefather transliterated into the Welsh language and somehow survived as a tell-tale sign of where many of his descendants reside today?<sup>9</sup>

Do the surnames of Lewry, Lory, Louis, Lowry, Lowrey, Leaver, Lever, Leigh belie a Levitical tribal heritage?

The Welsh call themselves the *Cymry*. It has been suggested that perhaps, the name *Cymry* could ultimately derive from *Cimmerian*. This is quite possible and not outside the bounds of possibility.<sup>10</sup>

In the milder area or Cornwall in south-east England we have the Cornish people, also remnants of the Brythons. Cornwall probably means *horn or headland* of Wales.

The name Pen appears often as place-names or surnames in Cornwall and means headland or hill while Penzance, a local town has the meaning of holy headland (Pen = headland + San = holy). Does this also indicate a distant recollection of their Levitical roots?

## The Druids – Descendants of the Levites?

In my old handwritten notes from around 1979/80 or so I wrote the following concerning Druidism being a watered-down form of Baalism (I do not know where I obtained that thought from or how accurate it is, but it might be of some interest and is likely derived from Apartian's thesis or British-Israel literature):

“... for which God sent Israel into captivity. Druids descended from the ancient Magi of the East. Remnants of Druids at still found amongst the Welsh.”

In the late 1970s I obtained a copy of Dibar Apartian's thesis on *The French-Speaking Peoples in Prophecy*<sup>11</sup> wherein he notes:

“The Druids ... were priest and it was their priestly functions which assured their prestige. They offered sacrifices ... of white bullocks.” (p. 42)

These particular Kymbri

“swore by a BRAZEN BULL, which they carried with them” (Sharon Turner, *History of The Anglo-Saxons*, Vol. 1, p. 3. Cp Ex 32:4).

Was this a corruption of Israel's ancient practices? See IKings 12:28-33.

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<sup>9</sup> Could some names derive from Levi's sons such as Gershon became Gershwin; and Kohath became Kuhn, Cohen, Cowan?

<sup>10</sup> An interesting, non-British-Israel gaming blog that sees British as descendants of the Cimmerians is [https://aoc.fandom.com/wiki/Cimmerian#KNOWN\\_CIMMERIAN\\_CLANS](https://aoc.fandom.com/wiki/Cimmerian#KNOWN_CIMMERIAN_CLANS)

<sup>11</sup> It was quite a task, but a pleasure to scan this and 100s of rare and old documents no one had (or if they did, would not share with others) and upload them to my websites over the past 20 or more years.



Interestingly, many of the Druids functioned as judges as did many Levites: “The striking parallel between the practice of the Druids and that of the Levitical Priesthood is very significant” (Aparian, *ibid*). For, it was not very often that one can find in history that such a practice by a priesthood – instead it was left to the civil authorities to arbitrate in public and private disputes.

The Druids of Wales were led by a High Priest (*ibid*, p. 43), an “Arch-Druid”, a bit like the Levitical High Priest. Also, in similitude to the Levites, they were the educators and teachers. Additionally, they were also exempt from ‘taxes’ (we would say tithes) and military service (see Num 1:2-3, 47-49). Refer to Rev Roberts’ *Druids in Britain* for further evidence.

They even prohibited the making of images figured as gods (*ibid*, p. 44). This begs the question: were they descendants of the Levites who absorbed pagan practice and mixed it with their original Biblical practices?<sup>12</sup>

The Welsh variation contained a three-level hierarchy: Bards (teachers and historians); Ovates (doctors and herbalists); senior Druids (priests). They even established schools to continue their belief system which can only be described as “huge”. Historians are still in awe of their knowledge and educational system.

Their cultic observances were practiced in the open air near oaks or pillars such as dolmens (table-like structures) or menhirs (vertically standing stone). Setting up dolmens was characteristic of the Israelites (Ex 24:4; Josh 4:9-20; Jer 31:21; II Kings 11:12-14; 23:2-3; Gen 28:18; 31:52; 35:14-15, 20).

The following is from the *Jewish Encyclopedia*:

“Sacred stones are mentioned with great frequency in the Old Testament; they were erected by Jacob at Beth-el (Gen. xxviii. 18; comp. xxxi. 13), at Shechem (Gen. xxxiii. 20 [where **מזבחה** should be read instead of **מזבחה**]), at Gilead (Gen. xxxi. 52), and over the grave of Rachel; and by Joshua in the sanctuary of Shechem (Josh. xxiv. 26; comp. Judges ix. 6). The “stone of help” (“Eben-ezer”) set up by Samuel (I Sam. vii. 12) was such a “mazzebah”; and other sacred stones existed at Gibeon (II Sam. xx. 8), at Enrogel (I Kings i. 9, “the serpent-stone”), and at Michmash (I Sam. xiv. 33). Twelve stones of this character were set up by Moses near his altar at the foot of Mount Sinai (Ex. xxiv. 4), and a circle of twelve at Gilgal was ascribed to Joshua (Josh. iv. 20). Finally, Jachin and Boaz, the two columns of the Temple (I Kings vii. 15 *et seq.*), were such mazzebot, not intended as supports for the building, but possessing an independent purpose, as is shown by their names.

“The Phœnician temples also contained such columns, and mazzebot long served as legitimate symbols of Yhwh. Even the prophet Hosea forewarned Israel of the terrible days to come (Hos. iii. 4; comp. x. 12), when they should be “without a sacrifice, and without an image [“mazzebah”], and without an ephod, and without teraphim”—that is, without public worship; while Isaiah

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<sup>12</sup> Landseer MacKenzie (member of Council, British-Israel Association) wrote: “In consulting Granger, “The Seed of Isaac,” I could not but be struck by the similarities brought out in his chapter on the ancient Britons, between the Druidical customs, manners and religious line of thought, and those of Israel. Mr Granger does not go so far as to claim identity between the Druidical and Levitical priesthood – though that may have lurked in the back of his mind ...” (*A Monograph of Levi*, p. 17).

### Where are the Levites today?

prefigured the conversion of Egypt to Yhwh with the words, "There shall be . . . a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord" (Isa. xix. 19, Hebr.).

"Dolmen. (After Conder.) Cromlech. (From Benziger, "Hebräische Archäologie.") **The Deuteronomic, code, on the other hand, rejected the mazzebot, rightly recognizing that they did not originally belong to the cult of Yhwh, but had been adopted from the Canaanites** (Deut. xii. 3, xvi. 22; comp. Lev. xxvi. 1, and the commandment to destroy the mazzebot, "asherot," and similar objects of Canaanitish worship in Ex. xxiii. 24 and xxxiv. 13). The Deuteronomic historian accordingly regarded the downfall of the people as due to the erection of these mazzebot by Judah and Israel (I Kings xiv. 23; II Kings xvii. 10), while the pious kings showed their righteousness by destroying them (II Kings iii. 2, x. 26, xviii. 4, xxiii. 14)."

("Stone and Stone-Worship", [www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14059-stone-and-stone-worship](http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14059-stone-and-stone-worship), by Emil Hirsch and Immanuel Benzinger). [emphasis mine]

So, we see that the erection of stones as places to worship God connected to a representation of a pagan god and the worship of the stone, is completely unacceptable to Him. See Deut 12:3; Lev 26:1.

The rest of the article by Hirsch is worth a read.

What of the oak which was pinnacle in Druidic worship?

It featured prominently in Israel (Jos 24:26; Jud 6:11, 19-20; IChron 10:12. See Gen 35:4, 8) but its purpose was also perverted under the influence of the Phoenicians and surrounding pagan tribes (Ezek 6:13).

Many Brythonic Druids sacrificed a white bull under their oaks, reminiscent of the ancient Levitical practice of sacrifice, but mixed with paganism (compare Is 44:14; Hos 4:13; Ezek 6:13). This synchronism is unacceptable to God and is considered apostasy: Jer 2:8; Ezek 22:26; 44:10-12. No wonder the word *Druid* is thought to derive from "knower of the oak tree". Note also that the most magical and potent of all their plants was the mistletoe (a parasitic plant) that grew on oak trees.

" ... Baal, according to historians, was also the founder of Druidism (*Celtic Researches*, Davies, p. 190). In other words Baalism was the religion of the Druids" (Apartian, *ibid*, p. 49)

While Baalism and Druidism were not exactly the same, it appears that the latter drew many of its elements from the former.

Even some of the Druid religious festivals roughly coincided with those of Leviticus 23 (i.e., around April-May, October), counted their months according to the moons and they counted days sunset to sunset normally not practiced by other religions, except that laid out in the Bible (Apartian, *ibid*, pp 51-2).

The following information comes from *The Veil of Isis; or, The Mysteries of the Druids* by Winwoode Reade<sup>13</sup>:

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<sup>13</sup> Note that this is a non-British-Israelite work.

*Where are the Levites today?*

“The Druids possessed remarkable powers and immunities. **Like the Levites, the Hebrews,** and the Egyptian priests they **were exempted from taxes and from military service.** They also annually elected the magistrates of cities: they educated all children of whatever station, not permitting their parents to receive them till they were fourteen years of age. Thus the Druids were regarded as the real fathers of the people. The Persian Magi were entrusted with the education of their sovereign; but in Britain the kings were not only brought up by the Druids, but also relieved by them of all but the odium and ceremonies of sovereignty.” (p. 56)

“We first hear of the sacramental offering of bread and wine as used by Melchisedek. I have described it among the ceremonies of Druidism. Among the Hebrews it was called gum whence our word “communion.”” (p. 149)<sup>14</sup> [emphasis mine]

Of further interest is that

“This class of professional learned men, priests and scholars, **seems to share a common Indo-European inheritance with the brahmins of India,** for the later and fuller evidence of Irish sources shows a similar class, the *filid*, who, while shorn of their priestly office in a Christian society, have retained the scholarly functions of the druids as poets, genealogists, lawyers, and the practice of oral rather than written tradition. **Both the form and content of their learning show astonishing similarity to Brahminical traction...**

“The Indo-European origin of Irish metres, and the striking similarities between the Hindu and Irish systems of law, which also point to Indo-European origin, go a long way towards proving that the Irish *filid*, and therefore **the Celtic druids, were heirs to the same traditions as the brahmins**”. (Myles Dillon & Nora Chadwick, *The Celtic Realms*, pp. 10, 12) [emphasis mine]

More than that, were these also not the functions of the Levites? In the scattering did some influence the religions of northwest India to a degree?

Why does he mention the Indo-European Brahmin ruling caste of northwestern India (who originated in the steppes according to some histories)? Did some of the Levite’s mix with these ancient descendants of Abraham? Did they influence each other’s religious beliefs?

The Rev Roberts noted:

Druidism is no doubt a perversion of Hebraism, for Bardic ideas are culled from scripture as may be gathered from the following quoted from Barddas, Vol. I, and other works.

The unity of the Godhead was the very soul and center of Bardism, and yet this unity was a three in one; Belenus, Taranis and **Hesus**, three representatives of the one God. They discountenanced human sacrifices.

Lastly, Mr. Charles Hulbert (cir. 1825 A.D.), in his ‘Religions of Britain,’ says:

“The charge of staining their consecrate places with human blood, and offering upon the altar of ‘Cor-Gawr,’ or Stonehenge, human victims, hath no real

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<sup>14</sup> Some historians believe that due to their knowledge of mathematics, astronomy, medicine and such like the Romans saw them as a threat which accounts for their brutality. See Guto Dafydd, “Are the Welsh the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel?”, *The Daily Wales*, 29 Jan 2015.

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foundation in fact; an accusation as wicked as unjust." (p. 37) So near is the resemblance between the Druidical religion of Britain and the Patriarchal religion of the Hebrews, that we hesitate not to pronounce their origin the same." (*Druidism in Britain*, p. 41)<sup>15</sup> [emphasis mine]

According to my old notes based on my readings, among their beliefs we find some which align more-or-less with Biblical laws and history, such as:

- Life must be given for life
- The priests "spoke in the name of the Lord"
- Legends of a great flood
- Their tradition that they came originally from Asia Minor
- Their Archdruid was clad with a white robe, a breastplate and a golden tiara, with the name of Jah.

One author was over enthusiastic with his assessment:

"So near is the resemblance', said Charles Hulbert in his book "Religions of Britain" (1825), 'between the Druidical religion of Britain and the Patriarchal religion of the Hebrews, that we hesitate not pronounce them the same'" (quoted in H. Olden, *The Early British Church*, p. 94).

Although a rather exuberant statement, at least he was "on to something" and could sense that there was more to the Druids than meets the eye. This needs to be explored further by historians.

A good British-Israel work on all of this is *Celt, Druid and Culdee* by Isabel Hill Elder which is worth a read.

Note:

"the term Druidism must denote not so much a unique system of theology as the peculiar organization of a hierarchic caste that kept a secret magic-lore and conducted the religious side of Gallic life." (p. 22) In footnote 8 he states "' Cf. Ausonius's " Stirpe druidarum " **with the Hebrew Levites**. (IV. 226) lays stress on the hierarchic condition of Gaul." (In footnote 8 he states: "Cf. Dottin, *L' Antiquite Celtique*, p. 289, " the hierarchy of the Druids "" (W. Tamblyn, "British Druidism and the Roman War Policy", *The American Historical Review*, Oct 1909, p. 22) [emphasis mine]

Amazingly another secular author sees similarities between the Druids and Levites:

"The Celts had priests called *gutuatri* attached to certain temples, their name perhaps meaning "the speakers," those who spoke to the gods. 3 The functions of the Druids were much more general, according to this theory, hence M. D'Arbois supposes that, before their intrusion, the Celts had no other priests than the *gutuatri*. 4 But the probability is that they were a Druidic class, ministers of local sanctuaries, and related to the Druids **as the Levites were to the priests of Israel**, since the Druids were a composite priesthood with a

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<sup>15</sup> See Paul Bunch, *The Masterminds of Stonehenge*.

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variety of functions.” (John MacCulloch, *The Religion of the Ancient Celts*, p. 298) [emphasis mine]

The Druids wore breastplates (as did the Levites) and believed in some sort of supreme God over the universe. They also had a god named Esus or Hesus, their healing sun-saviour. So, it is self-evident that the Levites combined their ancient beliefs with ideas about the immortality of the soul, a triad and such like as they slid into apostasy.

Godfrey Higgins wrote the following insightfully in his *The Celtic Druids; or, an attempt to shew that the Druids were the Priests of Oriental Colonies who migrated from India*

“In Ireland it was the custom on the first of November, the Autumnal equinox when the sun at the Vernal equinox was in Taurus, to extinguish all the fires except the sacred fires of the Druids; and every one was prohibited, under the most terrible penalties, from procuring this indispensable article in any way except from them, for which a stipulated price was paid.

Dr. Hyde states that this custom is continued by the fire worshipers, or Guebres of India at this day; and he observes that he learns from the Talmud, **that this practice was adopted by the Israelites when they were in captivity in that country amongst the Medes, who are called Persae.** “What will the sceptics of the ancient connexion between Ireland and Asia say to this? Will they account for it by back-reckoning, or say that it is an accident? If sceptics do, I can only say that sceptics are more credulous than I am.

M. Baillie says, “After what we have said of the difficulty of the communications, we cannot imagine that the Druids have quitted their forests two or three thousand years ago to go to school with the Bramins or the Magi, or that the latter have visited our ancestors.” (p. 158)<sup>16</sup> [emphasis mine]

Here we have another non-British-Israelite author finding links to the Brahmins.

Concerning the stones that the Druids either set up or were associated with, he demonstrates similarities to those of ancient Israel (pages 214-16, 233). Further,

“I think it impossible for any one to read the previous part of this chapter and not see, that **the customs of the Israelites and the Druids, with their stone circles and pillars, &c., were the same.**” (p. 268) [emphasis mine]

“Mr. Rowland has observed, that the travelling of Samuel’ every year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mispheh, to judge Israel, is an exact prototype of the Druids meeting once a year in a central part of Gaul to judge the people, as described by Caesar” (p. 273)

The British-Israel World Federation has long linked the Druids with the Levites. For example, A. Exley, “The Tribe of Levi”, *The Kingdom Herald*, Sept-Oct, 1991, pp. 31-34 (reprint from an older periodical, *The Kingdom Empire*) and *A Monograph of Levi*.

There are a number of others such as W. Finlayson, “The Levites: Their Role in Israel”, *The Kingdom Digest*, Feb 1987, pp. 31-34 (reprint from the older *National Message*):

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<sup>16</sup> Other similarities with the Levites are found on pages 76, 78, 165, 168, 179, 306.

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“The descendants of Levi, characterised by an inherent zeal for service to their God, would surely tend to enter the Christian ministry and also to take part in national and local administration.

“It is remarkable how historians of the ancient Celtic Church have noted its observance of Levitical customs, describe in the Old Testament and newly-intermingled with the proclaimed Gospel of Christ.” (p. 33)

We must, of course, be careful not to force similarities into any preconceived ideas. Some similarities are there, but Druidism was still highly pagan. For further details refer to the **Appendix. Druidism – A Perversion of the Israelitish Religion.**

### **Suggested Further Reading on the Welsh**

- *An Historical Atlas of Wales* by William Rees.
- *Wales. A History* by Wynford Vaughan-Thomas.
- *Welsh Tribal Law and Custom in the Middle Ages* by Thomas Ellis.
- *Who Were the Cimmerians, and Where Did They Come From?* By Anne Kristensen.

## OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE BRYTHONS AND WELSH

The country of Wales (Cymru) constitutes a nation within the larger United Kingdom. The population is around 3.4 million and the land area covers 20,735 km sq.

While most of the population descends from the native Brythons, people of Anglo-Saxon and Norman stock also reside there. Christianity is still the largest religion, but the percentage of atheists and non-Christian religions is increasing.

Chief among its economic activities is coal mining, lead, slate, refining of imported petroleum, tourism and electronics manufacturing.

The Welsh, despite their small numbers, have long been recognized as excellent contributors to society. Thomas Rees wrote a book about some of these in 1908 under the title of *Notable Welshmen 1700-1900* (the book is available free online).

Ethnically, the first inhabitants of the British Isles (and indeed much of Europe) after the Flood of Noah were descendants of Japheth.

Then came some Israelites, apparently having escaped from the clutches of the Egyptian captivity, while others arrived in waves.

Welsh history contains a lot of traditions including one that states that Brutus of Troy actually landed in the British Isles and then he became the first King of the Britons around 1170BC. Apparently, this commenced the dynasty of the Royal Brythonic line. You can read all about this in works such as *The Chronicle of the Early Britons* (annotated translation by William Cooper) so I shall not summarise this information here.

The early Brythons spread all over what we call Britain today (England, Scotland, Wales). In northern Scotland we find the Picts who spoke a language that we cannot find evidence of which language group it is related to. However, what we do have are Pictish place names and personal names showing that without doubt, it was a Brythonic tongue (the Irish, Scottish Gaels and people of Manx spoke the Goidelic tongue.<sup>17</sup>)

The earliest Picts were of Mongoloid extraction, but the Brythonic people that later settled in that area took on the name of the Picts (this transfer of names from one people to another is not unique and does cause confusion in the minds of researchers, let alone the casual reader). The Irish called them *Cruithne* which is cognate (i.e., related or connected) with the Brythonic *Priteni*.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD, the Gaels from northern Ireland entered northwestern Britain (Scotland) and over time they absorbed the Picts into their *Alba* and *Dál Riata* kingdoms. The areas of Orkney, Hebrides, Shetland and Isle of Man all became Gaelic. I should state here that the Gaels and Brythons are the same race but different tribes or the same tribe sub-divided over time. In the larger sense of Israel identity, it makes little difference.

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<sup>17</sup> While the Irish and Scottish spoke the Q-Celtic language (Gaelic), the Brythons and Welsh spoke the P-Celtic tongue which developed over time (Vaughan Thomas, *Wales. A History*, p. 32).

### *Where are the Levites today?*

It is apt that the name Britain remains, given that it denotes the ancient occupants of all of the island. Today only the Welsh, Cornish and most Scottish Lowlanders (with a small mixture with Anglo-Saxons) represent that group.<sup>18</sup>

All of these Brythons, Picts and Gaels were considered to be fierce and warlike. History records these people as always willing to make a stand and attackers knew that it was better to leave these tribes alone or be very wary in fighting them. The area north of the Hadrian Wall and also the Welsh Cambrian Mountains were regions known to be best avoided and the Romans found out that these peoples were best not tangled with. If they did invade those territories, they found the going very difficult.

Surely there are too many similarities of these peoples with the fierce tribes of Levi, Simeon and Judah. The act together and so the early Brythons and Scots would have been composed of these people.

Centuries later, around 50AD, the Romans invaded the land, and it took 9 years to finally reach the Strait of Menai (northwest corner). Tacitus wrote about the battle that ensued across the Strait on the banks of the Anglesey Island. The Brythons (including their women and the Druids) fought valiantly but the Romans were terrible and slaughtered all.

In the south the Silures (mix of Brythons and some Phoenicians) continued on the fight, but could not stop the all-conquering Romans and by 78AD the entire land was under Roman rule.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Angles, Saxons (and some Frisians and possibly Jutes) entered the land we call England gradually and pushed the Brythons into their strongholds of Wales and southern Scotland. Many found refuge in the Highlands and Cambrian Mountains.

As the Brythons were pushed further west, they grouped into the territory we call Wales today which was intended to prevent further takeovers.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Below is the sort of information this has not found its way into the works of historians and minds of people to the extent it should. The author provides a good summary of the facts:

“At the turn of the 18th century, the Welsh linguist Edward Lhuyd discovered that Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Manx, Welsh, Cornish, and Breton comprised a single family of related languages. He theorized that the languages had originated in Iberia or in what is now France. Because the Romans had referred to some inhabitants of those areas as Celts, Lhuyd named the language family “Celtic.” Lhuyd’s interest was primarily linguistic, and he never suggested that the ancient inhabitants of the islands themselves were Celts.

In the 19th century, cultural nationalists in Great Britain and Ireland, influenced by the theories of Johann Herder, argued that if the ancient Irish, Welsh and Scots were Celtic speakers, then they must actually *have been Celts*, and therefore their descendants were the remnants of a Celtic “race” or *Volk*. That faulty logic led to the invention of the myth of the island Celts, a race of mystical warrior-poets.

In the mid-20th century, scholars came to agree that the Iron Age Celtic culture in continental Europe originated in the foothills of the Alps, and associated it with the great archaeological sites at Hallstat and La Tène. Because the sophisticated Hallstat/La Tène technology had spread across much of Europe, scholars assumed that the technology had accompanied migrations outward by the Celts themselves along with, of course, their language. Thus, if the peoples of the British Isles had been Celtic speakers, then of course they must have been Hallstat/La Tène Celts.” (Éamon O’Kelly, [www.quora.com/Are-Lowlanders-of-Scotland-ethnically-a-Germanic-people](http://www.quora.com/Are-Lowlanders-of-Scotland-ethnically-a-Germanic-people))

<sup>19</sup> And that is why to this day, the Welsh have mainly kept their identity. “This study shows that the Welsh border was more of a genetic barrier to Anglo-Saxon Y chromosome gene flow than the North Sea. Remarkably, we find that the resultant genetic differentiation is still discernible in the present day. These results indicate that a political boundary can be more important than a geophysical one in population genetic structuring and that informative patterns of genetic differentiation can be produced by migration events occurring within historical times.” (Michael Weale (et al), “Y Chromosome Evidence for Anglo-Saxon Mass Migration”, *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, Vol 19, Issue 7, July 2002, p. 7)



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When the Normans (the same race as the Anglo-Saxons) came to England in 1066AD with a small force, they managed to conquer the land and unite the petty kingdoms. Years later they invaded Wales followed by all sorts of political manoeuvrings one can read about from a number of sources. There was a partial conquest of Wales in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, and it became a principality in 1284AD when England annexed the country.

A few years later, in 1301AD, the title of *Prince of Wales* was given to the heir to the English throne and during the reign of Henry VIII (1509 – 1547AD) it was incorporated into England under the Act of Union in 1536AD, but further details were laid out in a subsequent act in 1543AD. Since then, there has been some intermarriage between the ethnic Welsh and English, but the racial type is still dominantly Welsh.

Almost 400 years later the Welsh nationalist party, *Plaid Cymru*, was founded in 1925 and pushed its agenda until a referendum in 1997 they gained home rule and their own elected parliament which was convened in 1999.<sup>20</sup>

Of additional interest is that Wales has a plethora of biblical place names which extend back over 1,000 years. In exploring this phenomenon, researcher John Davies remarks:

“... in their adoption of Old Testament names, the speakers of the Brittonic languages (the early forms of Welsh, Cornish, and Breton) before about AD 1100, especially those persons existing in an ecclesiastical or other primarily religious setting, had something to tell us about their own religious and cultural roots and identity.” (“Old Testament Personal Names Among the Britons: Their Occurrence and Significance Before the Twelfth Century”, *Viator: Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 1, p. 176)<sup>21</sup>

Davies provides his reasons, but one wonders if there is not something deeper lurking in the Brythonic psyche (i.e., their ‘racial memory’).



*Welsh children*

Amy Mulligan quotes Mary Garrison’s “Divine Election for Nations,” (in *The Making of Christian Myths in the Periphery of Latin Christendom (c. 1000-1300)* edited by Lars Boje Mortensen, 2006):

<sup>20</sup> A good outline of Welsh history can be found here [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_Welsh\\_history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Welsh_history)

<sup>21</sup> A British-Israel publication contained a list of place names in Cornwall that appear to be related to Hebrew which needs to be further investigated, but seems likely (“Our Israel Britain Homeland”, *The National Message*, July 1978, p. 210). The article also records that there is an olive-skinned, people amongst the Cornish, especially in west Cornwall and Scilly Islands – these would be a mix of Brythons with some Phoenicians.

*Where are the Levites today?*

“if the Old testament was ‘the historical record of the church before Christ,’ it now became, with a new immediacy, the history of the protestant groups who saw themselves as the New Israel such as the Dutch, the English “Protestants of the Civil War, [and] the Puritans who fled to America.” (Amy Mulligan, “Moses, Taliesin, and the Welsh Chosen People: Elis Gruffydd’s Construction of a Biblical, British Past for Reformation Wales”, *Studies in Philology*, Vol. 113, No. 4, pp. 774-75).

Mulligan explains:

Elis Gruffydd [a Welsh chronicler who lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century], like other marginalized Protestants, appears to be thinking of his own **Welsh people as another New Israel.**” (ibid, Mulligan) [emphasis mine]



*Tribal map of Wales*

Perhaps there was something deep in the national psyche or memory that resurrected the belief in Israelitish identity?

“In writing his chronicle Elis Gruffydd, like earlier authors, created a richly textured picture of the Welsh, or native Britons, as typological counterparts to the Israelites. At the same time, by focusing on Moses specifically, and distancing his narrative and Taliesin from the trying aspects of the Israelites’ experience, Elis shifts the focus to more thoroughly celebratory associations between the Welsh and the Israelites,” (ibid, Mulligan, p. 789)

In footnote 87 she mentions

“The links between Wales and the Israelites do not end with Elis Gruffydd, of course. Charles Edwards (1628–91), writing in 1667, links the Welsh and the Jews through (faulty) linguistic equations of Hebrew and Welsh.” (ibid, Mulligan, p. 794).

If the reader would like to read further into Welsh history, the following are excellent works: *A History of Wales* by John Davies; *When was Wales? A History of the Welsh* by Gwyn Williams and *Wales. A History* by Wynford Vaughan-Thomas.

## The Phoenician element in Wales

Jarrett and Mann discuss the ancient tribes of Wales in “The Tribes of Wales”, *Welsh History Review*, Vol. 4, pp. 161-74.

The article examines the tribes and their territory in both the pre-Roman and Roman periods that Wales experienced. They maintain the whatever few textual sources that are available (chiefly Tacitus and Ptolemy), they are not necessarily reliable. In addition, the archaeological proofs are limited.

However, drawing upon the siting of the forts of the Romans in relation to those tribes they were attempting to subdue provides clues as to the friendliness or otherwise of those particular tribes.

They discuss the Deceangli, Demetae, Ordovices and Silures: the Demetae were a friendly tribe located in south-west Wales; the Ordovices were roughly in the middle of Wales; the Deceangli were in the area we call Flintshire; the lightly olive-skinned Silures<sup>22</sup> were in the south, partial descendants of Phoenicians (Canaanites)<sup>23</sup>, but mixed with the Brythons.<sup>24</sup>

Publius Tacitus in his famous book *Agricola* (c.98AD), mentioned the darker and shorter Silurians (*Agricola*, xi.):

“The red hair and large limbs of the inhabitants of Caledonia point clearly to a German origin [i.e., northern European racial stock]. The dark complexion of the Silures, their usually curly hair, and the fact that Spain is the opposite shore to them, are an evidence that Iberians of a former date crossed over and occupied these parts.”

The Phoenicians were from the Mediterranean rim including Carthage (a colony in North Africa) who sometimes used mercenaries from the northern parts of Africa. They are known to have mined or traded with miners of copper and lead. As if to corroborate this, Michael Weale et al in “Y Chromosome Evidence for Anglo-Saxon Mass Migration”, *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, Vol 19, Issue 7, July, pp. 1008–1021, have shown via DNA analysis that the population of the town of Abergele in north Wales contains small traces of people from north Africa.

To this one should also note the very little genetic Roman (Italian) presence that was left behind after they abandoned the island

“Sir Walter said ‘At that time [time of Roman occupation], the population of Britain could have been as much as one million, so an awful lot of people would

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<sup>22</sup> These and others are regarded as darker and found also in pockets in northern Wales, parts of Ireland, western Scotland and Exmoor in Devon (directly across the sea from Wales) and seem similar to some peoples along the coast of northwestern Spain (Emrys Bowen, *Wales. A Physical, Historical and Regional Geography*, p. 135).

<sup>23</sup> “It is true that the Cassiterides, the “Isles of Tin,” whence the Phoenicians obtained great quantities of this metal, so much in request for the making of bronze, are no longer identified with the Scilly Isles, but it is suggested with much probability that they were the British Isles themselves” (John Lloyd, *History of Wales*, p. 27). Refer also to “Who were the Phoenicians?” *Watch Jerusalem*, Nov-Dec 2021, pp. 4-10.

<sup>24</sup> See also Edwin Guest, *Origines Celticae* (Vol. 2), pp. 46-55 for more about these tribes.

### *Where are the Levites today?*

need to arrive in order for there to be an impact. You can have a huge impact culturally from relatively few people. There is no evidence of a Roman genetic signature but there is evidence of what the Roman's achieved." (Fiona Macrae, "Are the Welsh the Truest Brits?" *Daily Mail*, 19 March 2015)

In any event, most of the Roman troops on British soil were brought in from West Europe (such as the Belgae) and were not from Italy.

The article contains a map stating that "People in North and South Wales are less similar to each other than the English to the Scots."

## **Links between Welsh and Hebrew Languages?**

Could the Welsh language provide any clues as to true Welsh origins?

As far back to at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century, some could see a connection. According to Eric Reisenauer, *British-Israel: Racial Identity in Imperial Britain, 1870-1920*:

"In 1786, the Irish antiquarian Colonel Charles Vallancey concluded "that the Irish, Hebrew, and Punic languages were different dialects of the same tongue." [79]" (p. 282. Footnote 79: "William Beauford, A.M., "On the Origin and Language of the Irish, and of the Learning of the Druids," in Charles Vallancey, *Collectanea de Rebus Hibemicus* (Dublin: Luke White, 1786), 228; Vallancey, "An Essay on the Antiquity of the Irish Language," in *ibid.*, 251-336.)

"Over a hundred years later H. Gordon Palmer reported that he had "discovered at least 4,000 Irish words, good and true Hebrew, Chaldee, and Arabic; some are Aramaic, and some are to be found only in the Targums, Talmud, and in Rabbinical Hebrew." [80]" (p. 282. Footnote 80: Rev. H. Gordon Palmer, B.A., "Stray Notes on the Irish Language," *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* (Dublin), 1 September 1899; Johnes, *Philological Proofs of the Original Unity and Recent Origin of the Human Race*, 51.)

Also in 1899,

"the Welsh scholar Morris Jones published a paper entitled *Pre-Aryan Syntax in Insular Celtic*...

"[he] concluded that the pre-Celtic language or languages of the British Isles were of a Hamito-Semitic type of origin" (Heinrich Wagner, "Near Eastern and African Connections with the Celtic World," in *The Celtic Consciousness*, pp. 51-52).

This includes the Hebrew language (p. 61).<sup>25</sup>

They are not to be confused with the Celts of Europe (sometimes called 'Celto-Slavs'). The labelling of the Gaels (or most of them) and Brythons as 'Celts' is a misnomer, much like American 'Indian'.

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<sup>25</sup> "It is tempting to think that it was the Iron Age hills-fort dwellers who introduced into Wales those dialects of Celtic speech [Brythonic], that became ancestral to the Welsh" (Emryn Bowen, *Wales. A Physical, Historical and Regional Geography*, p. 136)

Some professional linguists such as Theo Vennemann has argued for a Semitic substratum in the Celtic languages, although this has not been accepted at this time by most linguists. In a short article Vennemann notes that "The non-Indo-European structural features of Insular Celtic have all been shown by Morris Jones and Pokorny to occur in Hamito-Semitic, and by Gensler to form a characteristic bundle of isoglosses just of Hamito-Semitic and Insular Celtic." (Theo Vennemann, *Semitic → Celtic → English: The Transitivity of Language Contact*, p. 1)<sup>26</sup>

John Wilson in his *Languages of Europe* states that:

"The basis of the English language may, to a remarkable extent, be found in Hebrew. Many of our most common words, and names of familiar objects, are almost pure Hebrew." (J. Wilson, *The Languages of Europe*. Similar comments are made in John Cohane, *The Key*, p. 266)

The ancient Welsh language also has some similarities to the Hebrew and has the same characteristic of almost being vowel-less as is the Hebrew. The Scythian language indicates that many of the Scythians were descendants of the Hebrew-speaking "Lost Ten Tribes". The Scythian language they spoke is classified this way in the authoritative linguistic work, *A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles* (which later became known as the *Oxford English Dictionary*):

"Scythian ... Scythian (language) ... **There is a strong similarity between Hebrew and the Scythian languages**". (James Murray, *A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles*, 1971 ed., Vol. VII, art., "Scythian") [emphasis mine]

*A famous Jewish convert to Christianity*, Moses Margoliouth, wrote in his *The History of the Jews in Great Britain* (vol. 1):

"Now, if the aboriginal Britons knew not the Jews [i.e., Israelites], where could they have got hold of whole Hebrew—of purely Hebrew sentences? We say then, again, is it not highly probable, if not demonstrated, that the Jews visited this island at a very early period, and tried to teach the natives the lessons which they have themselves learned?" (p. 23)<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> For instance, "Today the museums of England and Ireland can boast of remarkable Celtic [i.e., British] works of art which reveal the art of the islands as **an individual branch** of Celtic art ... **The insular style** combined relief ornament with linear engraving, using palmettes, spiral patterns [etc] ... The earlier style was in use mainly in south-east England, from whence it later penetrated to Ireland." (Jan Filip, "Early History and Evolution of the Celts: The Archaeological Evidence", in *The Celtic Consciousness*, p. 43) [emphasis mine]

<sup>27</sup> "Be it recollected that the Jewish nation has been trained to be a wandering nation—to be prepared, no doubt, for their mighty dispersion. Their progenitor, Abraham, seems to have been a type of the same, who was thus commanded (Genesis xii. 1), "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee;" and 'his descendants have ever and anon manifested a peculiar migratory disposition, as is to be seen in holy writ." (p. 7)

"Now if Tharshis be Spain, the conclusion that the Israelites must have visited the western countries in the days of Solomon, is inevitable." (p. 14)

"Now, Strabo calls Britain *Bpeamm*—Bochart, a profound Oriental scholar, shows that *Bperavucn* is a corruption of the Hebrew words Barat-Anach, which are in signification the same as Casseritides. Is it not highly probable that Jews came over to this island with the Phoenicians, and named it according to its peculiar quality; which designation was ultimately adopted by the aborigines, when they began to have intercourse with the Jews." (p. 22)

"Clemens Romanus, who was an intimate friend and fellow-labourer of St. Paul, declares in his Epistle to the Corinthians, that St. Paul having been a herald of the gospel both in the east and in the west, he received the noble crown of faith, after teaching righteousness to the whole world, and gone even, "to the utmost bounds of the west:" an expression well known to every scholar, that always designated, or at least included, the British Islands." (p. 39).

For more details refer to *St. Paul in Britain* by the Rev. Morgan.<sup>28</sup> In *If Calmy You Listen* by L. Buxton Gresty, wrote: "The

Other works bringing tremendous scholarship to the above are *Similarities in Germanic and Hebrew* by Dr Terry Blodgett and *The Word* by Isaac Mozeson (both of these works are a “must” to read). Another is “Lat. Sacena, Heb. Sakkin and the Mediterranean Substrate”, *The Journal of Indo-European Studies*, Vol. 22, pp. 165-175 by Hannan Rosen; *The Affinity between the Hebrew Language and The Celtic* by Thomas Stratton; and *A Comparative Vocabulary of Forty Eight Languages, comprising One Hundred and Forty Six Common English Words, with the Cognates in other Languages showing their Affinities with the English and Hebrew* by Jacob Tomlin.<sup>28</sup> The latter, for example, strives to prove that early Cymric literature was a derivation of Hebrew in its ancient form.

And to cap it all off, perhaps it should not be a great surprise to understand what the name Britain (derived from Briton or *Brython*, an ancient Celtic tribe) really means. The Hebrew word for covenant is *berith* or *beriyth*. While the Hebrew word for man is *ish* or *iysh*. In Judges 8:33 the word for covenant is coupled with Baal to mean “idol of the covenant”. Thus, the English pronouncement of the Hebrew *berith-ish* is *British*. In other words, the British are the people of the covenant or covenant man – seemingly a concept carried by them down through the generations.

### Suggested Further Reading on Welsh History

- “Who Were the Phoenicians”? *Watch Jerusalem*, Nov-Dec 2021, pp. 4-10 by Mihailo Zekic.
- *Celt, Druid and Culdee* by Isabel Hill Elder.
- *The Chronicles of the Early Briton*. An annotated translation by William Cooper.
- *The Light of Britannia. The Mysteries of Ancient British Druidism Unveiled* by Owen Morgan.

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Rev. E. E. Williams, a prolific writer and author of *The Ancient Celtic Tribes, Historical Anecdotes of the Welsh Language, The Druids and Celtic Bards*, etc., has said that “The roots of most of the ancient British, or real Welsh words, may be regularly traced in the Hebrew.” (p. 147)

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## WELSH CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Let us now explore the national characteristics of the Welsh and how this stacks up with that of the tribe of Levi.

### Welsh Attributes – Similarities to Levi

The Levites (as well as the Simeonites and to a lesser extent the Judahites) were quick-tempered, fierce and sometimes cruel people as we have seen (Gen 49:5-7).

Wynford Vaughan-Thomas in *Wales. A History* noted that the Welsh

“are proud to call themselves Celts. They speak a variety of the old Celtic tongues and have a special affinity with their Celtic neighbours in Ireland and Brittany ... Without the Celts there would have been no Wales... **they were a race of warrior aristocrats**” (p. 28) [emphasis mine]

But that is not all, from what can be ascertained from the Scriptures this tribe are excellent singers, individualistic, musically gifted.

How similar to the Welsh who are also known for their individualism, excellent oratory and natural singing as well as an unusual sense of duty for the caring of others.

Were not the Levites the main musicians within ancient Israel? See IChron 9:33; IIChron 5:12-14; 34:12; Neh 11:22 for evidence.

Recall the famous Tom Jones musically gifted to a very high degree with an incredibly powerful singing voice. In fact, since my childhood I heard that the Welsh were the best singers in the world, producing top class singers out of all proportion to their small numbers.

No wonder Wales is known around the world as the “land of song” and their distinctive link to music as part of national identity stands out among the nations.<sup>29</sup> Their National Eisteddfod festival which has been in operation in one way or another since the 12 century (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eisteddfod>), honours those Welsh who have made a large contribution to Welsh language and culture; it also promotes poetry, music, arts and literature. The most important ceremony during the week-long celebration is the ‘crowning of the bard’ – i.e., the winning entrant.

Notice Moses’ prophecy referred to previously:

“And of Levi he said, “Give to Levi your Thummim, and your Urim to your godly one, whom you tested at Massah, with whom you quarreled at the waters of Meribah;  
who said of his father and mother, ‘I regard them not’; he disowned his brothers and ignored his children. For they observed your word and kept your covenant.  
They shall teach Jacob your rules and Israel your law; they shall put incense before you and whole burnt offerings on your altar.

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<sup>29</sup> A blog listing some famous Welsh singers is <https://millersmusic.co.uk/blog/iconic-welsh-musicians/>

### Where are the Levites today?

Bless, O LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands; crush the loins of his adversaries, of those who hate him, that they rise not again." (Deut 33:8-11)

This blessing of the congregation at the end of some church services (cp Num 6:23-26) may be found in ancient Israel. Is there a Levitical element within many Protestant churches?

## National and Tribal Emblems

One of the most prominent national emblems is the leek. A tradition has it that when the Welsh were at war with the Saxons, a Welsh leader (king of Gwynedd) ordered his troops to wear a leek to identify themselves in contrast to the Saxons during the confusion wrought during the fighting. While this distinguished the Welsh from the Saxons, it also supposedly possessed a secret potion that helped them win the battle.

"Your majesty says very true; if your majesties is remembered of it, the Welshmen did good service in a garden where leeks did grow, wearing leeks in their Monmouth caps; which, your majesty know, to this hour is an honourable badge of the service; and I do believe your majesty takes no scorn to wear the leek upon Saint Tavy's day."  
(Shakespeare, Henry V: Act 4, Scene 7)

While the leek is mentioned in the Bible (Num 11:5), it doesn't appear to bear any relationship to the Levites.

However, the pretty daffodil was chosen during the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the national flower while the oak is the national tree. As we have seen, the latter has Levitical significance.



The national flag depicts a red dragon as a heraldic symbol, but it has nothing to do the devil, despite the nonsense spread by conspiracy theorists.<sup>30</sup>

It may have something to do with the Welsh for warrior or chieftain, *ddraich* or *draig*, denoting bravery.

Following is a simple explanation of its origin:

<sup>30</sup> See "Dragon is a symbol of evil and paganism?" [www.reddragonflagmakers.co.uk/blogs/blog/128673735-dragon-is-a-sign-of-evil-and-paganism-how-wrong-can-rev-hargreaves-be](http://www.reddragonflagmakers.co.uk/blogs/blog/128673735-dragon-is-a-sign-of-evil-and-paganism-how-wrong-can-rev-hargreaves-be)



*Where are the Levites today?*

“The Flag of Wales incorporates the red dragon, now a popular Welsh symbol, along with the Tudor colours of green and white. It was used by Henry VII at the battle of Bosworth in 1485 after which it was carried in state to St. Paul's Cathedral. The red dragon was then included in the Tudor royal arms to signify their Welsh descent. It was officially recognised as the Welsh national flag in 1959. The British Union Flag incorporates the flags of Scotland, Ireland and England but does not have any Welsh representation. Technically, however, it is represented by the flag of England due to the Laws in Wales act of 1585 which annexed Wales following the 13th century conquest.” (“National Symbols of Wales”, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_symbols\\_of\\_Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_symbols_of_Wales))

It is thought to extend clear back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century to symbolise the withdrawal of the Romans and Welsh power restored. It could be that the dragon evolved from a bull symbol mixed with a dragon symbol found on a few Roman standards. This Roman symbol was even adopted by the kingdom of Wessex.



National Flag



Royal Badge

Of further interest to this author is that the Welsh have had an unusual intense interest in their pedigree and like the Levites of old, do not have their own, independent Kingdom within the United Kingdom.

Concerning the Tudors, the name was derived from Owen Tudor a Welsh courtier. He had married Catherine of Velois who was originally married to Henry V of England, but the pair married after his death in 1422AD. The rise of the Tudors and successive dynastic conflicts from 1455AD on has been term *War of the Roses*.

Elizabeth I was a Tudor and after she died in 1603AD the dynasty ended. So Elizabeth was part Judah and possibly part Levi.

It is most interesting that the Tudor dynasty had a large impact on shaping Britain. Here are some of their accomplishments:

- Church of England created (1534-39AD)
- Royal Navy (1546AD)
- The Royal Exchange for trading stocks (1571AD)
- The Royal Mail (1635AD)

*Where are the Levites today?*

- Intelligence Services (1586-87AD)

### **Suggested Further Reading**

- “Dragon is a symbol of evil and paganism?”  
[www.reddragonflagmakers.co.uk/blogs/blog/128673735-dragon-is-a-sign-of-evil-and-paganism-how-wrong-can-rev-hargreaves-be](http://www.reddragonflagmakers.co.uk/blogs/blog/128673735-dragon-is-a-sign-of-evil-and-paganism-how-wrong-can-rev-hargreaves-be)
- “Welsh Dragon”, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh\\_Dragon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh_Dragon)

## FUTURE OF THE LEVITES

There are a number of Scriptures which clearly show us that the Levitical Priesthood will be restored during the time of the Messiah – His Millennial reign on earth.

Many of the Psalms double up as prophecies. For example, the following is clearly Millennial:

“O house of Israel, bless the LORD! O house of Aaron, bless the LORD!  
O house of Levi, bless the LORD! You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!  
Blessed be the LORD from Zion, he who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the LORD!”  
(Ps 135:19-21)

Look at the chapters in Ezekiel on the Millennial temple and the role of the Priests and Levites:

“And he said to me, “This chamber that faces south is for the priests who have charge of the temple,  
and the chamber that faces north is for the priests who have charge of the altar.  
These are the sons of Zadok, who alone among the sons of Levi may come near to the LORD to minister to him.” (Ezek 40:45-46. See also 48:31)

The Levites are mentioned in another Millennial prophecy in Zech 12:12-13.

As we can see, during the Millennial reign of the Messiah, the Levites will function once again (Is 66:20-21) even though they, as a tribe, have always been around (Jer 33:18). Currently their physical role is on hold while there is no Temple in Jerusalem and Israel has not yet been fully regathered into the Holy Land (this will be fulfilled at the Second Exodus).

Like all the tribes of Israel, they have gone into apostasy (Jer 33:20-22; Ezek 43:19; 44:10) but it is prophesied that they will repent (Mal 3:3; Ezek 48:11-31; 45:5; Ps 135:19-20; Rev 7:7).

You can read more about the revival of the Levites and the sacrificial system during the Millennium in the articles by this author listed at the rear of this section.

In the meantime, are there Levites among today’s Christian clergy (and Jewish community)?

“Since many of the Levites undoubtedly remained among the Ten Tribes -- although we know many continued among the Jews -- and since those remaining among the Ten Tribes have lost their identity along with all Ten Tribes, it is entirely possible that many if not most, of the called true ministry of Jesus Christ through the centuries have been of the tribe of Levi.” (Herbert W. Armstrong, *United States and Britain in Prophecy*, p. 56)<sup>31</sup>

Given the multi-racial and multi-national component of the ministry (one can easily discern their physical differences), it is more likely that the word “some” would be better than “many if not most”. One issue that can arise due to this belief by certain ones is that some place themselves above the brethren claiming to be priests or sort of priests instead of elders that guide the flock.

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<sup>31</sup> Even some Mormon (Latter-day Saints) believe that their ministry is the restored or continuation of the Levitical Priesthood. One such group is Aaronic Order which published a book *The True Church of God (With His Levites)*. See pp. 19-23, 64, 83, 85-87, 90-91, 95, 112, 118-119.

*Where are the Levites today?*

Sometimes this belief is probably generated by the belief that they arise from genetic Levitical stock, and this somehow justifies their cruel and oppressive behaviours toward the brethren. Shouting, setting people up, slander, wrongful excommunications and such like.

However, it is possible that some elders descend from Levitical stock, but that does not make them priests today nor should they act in that fashion.

“Enoch David and William Davis, two leading Sabbatarian ministers, were of Welsh descent. Welsh influence among Sabbatarian Baptists may parallel that among the first-day Baptists, in replacing Arminian philosophy with Calvinism. Davis played a powerful role in shaping the future of Sabbatarian Baptists. It has been stated that William Davis has never lacked a direct descendant as a Seventh Day Baptist minister, and the denomination today is studded with his descendants. Corliss Fitz Randolph, the late "official" historian, was a descendant of Davis and colored his view of history in favor of his ancestor.” (Richard Nickels, *Sabbatarian Baptists in America*, ch. 5)

“Welsh Sabbath-keepers were prevalent until 1115, when the first Roman bishop was seated at St. David’s. Vavasor Powell (1617-1671), a Welsh preacher with quite a following, had “the sentiments of a Sabbatarian Baptist” (*Neal’s History of the Puritans*, pages 2, 274).” (Richard Nickels, *Sabbatarian Baptists in America*, ch. 1).

Did the Levites really continue into the Churches in both true and apostate form? Jer 33:18; Mal 2:7-8; 3:3 may indicate such.

Notice that some of the Levites entered the ministry in New Testament times (Acts 4:5-6). And in Acts 6:6-7 many of the priests joined the ministry, but now as elders and no longer as priests. This came about as the natural efforts of the Apostles in Acts 2:46; 3:1; 5:42. Notice also that in Acts 15:4-5; 20:17, 28 many of these priests assisted the Apostles and would have served as elders only.

One British-Israel author made some interesting comments about the descendants of Levi and that many of them might be within the clergy (and one might add, also the Church of God):

“It is true that the Levites were scattered among Israel--not only among the Jews but among the Western nations. Both the Jewish and the Christian clergy have their share of Levites. Their names vary somewhat, according to their residence: Levi, Levy, Levine, Levis, Lewis, Levit, Lewyt, LeVeen, Le Vine, Levenson, Levinsky, Lewisohn, etc. Another family of the Levites are the Cohens (literally "priests") who are known in different lands as Kohns, Cohans, Cowans, McGowens, Kahanas, Coens, Goheens, etc. These are not "Jews," although many are found among the Jewish people. But the same may be said as truly about the so-called Christian nations. Levi has been "divided in Jacob and scattered in Israel."

“However, we should make it clear that the descendants of Levi now have no monopoly of the ministerial or educational fields as they once did in Israel. For since the first advent of the Messiah, Yahshua (who was both the Lamb of Yahweh and a High Priest after the order of Melchizadek), He has opened the door of the priesthood to every true child of Yahweh ...” (Angelo Traina, *Treasure in the Field*, p. 96).

### *Where are the Levites today?*

An example may be Ken Lewis who was a Church of God minister in Australia, a very nice and kind man. Rather different to wolves that tear apart and scatter God's children. They will meet their fate.

But in the Millennium, the Levitical Priesthood will be revived in connection to the Temple system and the elders will also continue operating in God's revived and refreshed system on earth.

### **Suggested Further Reading**

- *Do Sacrifices Provide Forgiveness?* by Craig M White.
- *Understanding the Burnt Offering.* by Craig M White.
- *Will the Temple, Sacrifices & Tribal Allotments be restored during the Millennium?* by Craig M White.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

A Dr. Jacques Abaddie (1654-1727), wrote the following in his *Le Triomphe de la Providence et de la Religion* in 1723, wrote:

"Certainly, unless the Ten Tribes have flown into the air, or been plunged to the earth's centre, they must be sought in that part of the North which, in the time of Constantine, was converted to the Christian Faith - **namely among the Iberians, Armenians, and Scythians**; for that was the place of their dispersion-the wilderness where God caused them to dwell in tents, as when they came out of the land of Egypt... Perhaps, were the subject carefully examined, it would be found that the nations who in the fifth age made irruption into the Roman Empire, and whom Procopius reduces to ten in number, were in effect the Ten Tribes, who kept in a state of separation up to that time, then quitted the Euxine and Caspian, the place of their exile, because the country could no longer contain them. Everything fortifies this conjecture; the extraordinary multiplication of this people, marked so precisely by the prophets, the number of the tribes, the custom of those nations to dwell in tents, according to the oracles, and many other usages of **the Scythians similar to those of the children of Israel.**" [emphasis mine]

Abaddie was the Dean of Killaloe, Ireland and a Huguenot refugee (they were French, Calvinistic Protestants) who put in writing these thoughts.

Indeed! For the Israelites did migrate north via the area we call Armenia and the Iberian Caucasus region and into southern Russia becoming known as Scythians and also the Cimmerians.

We have seen that the Welsh name *Cymry* likely derives from Cimmerian, and this can be a variation or transliteration of *Khumri* (= House of Omri).

Further, the Welsh and certain of the Scots descend from this ancient tribe of Levi and continue the bloodline, fierceness and religious fervour (even if their religion has been contaminated). And there are many of Levitical, Simeonite and Judahite origin throughout England who were conquered by the Anglo-Saxons and left intact. However many were forced into the territory known as Wales.

The similarities are just too obvious to ignore.

## APPENDIX. WHO WERE THE CIMMERIANS/WELSH? TRIBE OF LEVI

[NB: I came across a protestant website that promotes the belief in the Welsh – Levi connection which I include below. <https://christianbaptistliving.com/>, 12 Feb 2014].

Who were the Cimmerians {KMR}? Where did they come from? Does anybody know?

The Cimmerians {KMR} SUDDENLY show up in history about 710 BC when they were pushed out of the Russian Steppes by the Scythians {SKD}. Some of them moved into what is now modern-day Crimea and in the 5th century BC established the Kingdom of Cimmerian Bosphorus. They were there long enough to leave their name there, 'Crimea,' which is derived from Cimmeria {KMR}.

The rest of the Cimmerians {KMR} moved south across the Caucasus Mountains first destroying Urartu (near MT Ararat) and then the kingdom of Phrygia in Anatolia (in modern Turkey). In 705 BC Sargon II, king of Assyria, was killed fighting the Cimmerians {KMR}. Appian writes in Mithridates 114 that east of the Roman province of Pontus et Bythinia (in modern Turkey and about 59 BC) lived the Iberi (Hebrews) {BR} and the Albani (Whites, probably because of white skin, most likely ancestors of modern Albania) {LBN}. This is also one of the areas that the Israelites were deported to and also the area that the Cimmerians {KMR} overran.

Herodotus says, "It is that the wandering Scythians {SKD} once dwelt in Asia, and there warred with the Massagetae {SKD} (descendants of the deported Israelites?), but with ill success; they (the Scythians {SKD}) therefore quitted their homes, crossed the Araxes, and entered the land of Cimmeria {KMR}. For the land which is now (circa 440 BC) inhabited by the Scyths {SKD} was formerly the country of the Cimmerians {KMR}." He also noted, "Scythia {SKD} still (circa 440 BC) retains traces of the Cimmerians {KMR}; there are Cimmerian {KMR} castles, and a Cimmerian {KMR} ferry (on the Tanais {DN} River (modern day Don River{DN}?)), also a tract called Cimmeria {KMR}, and a Cimmerian {KMR} Bosphorus. It appears likewise that the Cimmerians {KMR}, when they fled into Asia to escape the Scyths {SKD}, made a settlement in the peninsula where the Greek city of Sinope was afterwards built." (History of Herodotus, book IV)

But WHERE were the Cimmerians {KMR} BEFORE 710 BC? History is totally silent regarding their whereabouts. And WHERE are their descendants TODAY? No one seems to know.

What is known is that the Assyrians called ancient Israel 'mat-bit-Humria' {MD BD KMR} (the land of the house of Omri) or 'Bet Omri' {BD KMR} (the house of Omri) or 'Bit Humri' {BD KMR} (the house of Omri) or simply 'Khumri {KMR}', calling Israel after its most famous king, King Omri {KMR} (c885-873 BC). We also know that King Tilgath-Pilser III (King Pul) deported most of Israel in 734-732 BC and King Sargon II of Assyria deported the rest of the people of the kingdom of Israel (NOT to be confused with the kingdom of Judah {JD} to the south) in 721-718 BC. The Israelites of the first captivity were settled on the fringes of the Assyrian Empire south of the Caspian Sea, and were eventually referred to as Cimmerians. Those Israelites of the second captivity were resettled primarily in the Assyrian controlled province of Medo-Persia which is to the south and east of the first captivity. These people were eventually referred to as Scythians {SKD}. This is exactly the territory in which the Cimmerians {KMR} and Scythians {SKD} FIRST appeared in history a few years LATER.

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Could the Cimmerians {KMR} actually be part of the Israelites resettled by Tilgath-Pilser and Sargon II? Yes, for several reasons. First, the Cimmerians {KMR} do NOT appear in history until shortly AFTER the Israelite resettlement. Second, they first appear in exactly the SAME territory. And third, the name 'Cimmeria {KMR}' actually derives from 'Omri {KMR}' the ancient king of Israel. Some say that the Cimmerians {KMR} were descendants of Gomer {KMR} the son of Japheth, but if so, WHY is history silent about them prior to the deportation of the Israelites?

Since the Cimmerians {KMR} first appeared in history, they have shown up in various parts of Europe, quite often leaving their name behind. For example, the peninsula Denmark {DN} occupies is the Cymbric {KMR} Peninsula. Names like Umbria {KMR}, Cambria {KMR}, Cumberland {KMR}, Crimea {KRM}, etc are also waymarks of the Cimmerians {KMR}. Even today, the official Celtic name of Wales is CYMRU {KMR} and of the Welsh people is CYMRY! {KMR}

Are the Welsh the descendants of the Cimmerians {KMR}? They claim to be. Their name says they are. Samuel Lysons states, "the Cimmerians {KMR} seeming to be the same people (as) the Gauls {KL} or Celts {KLD} under a different name; and it is observable that the Welsh (a Celtic {KLD} people), who are descended from the Gauls {KL}, still call themselves Cymri {KMR} or Kymry {KMR}." (*Our British Ancestors*, 1865, pp 23,27). The time-trail of Cimmerian {KMR} names STARTS in the Russian Steppes about 710 BC and ENDS in modern day Wales! Does this mean that the Welsh are descendants of ancient Israel? Is there ANY other possibility? Not to my knowledge.

Is there anything else that supports the Welsh coming from ancient Israel? Examine the Welsh language. Several studies have been done comparing modern Welsh to ancient Hebrew. What was found? There is an unmistakable and absolute relationship between them!!! Whole SENTENCES are exactly the same in BOTH languages! Not just one sentence, but hundreds and hundreds. Even more common are exact phraseologies, and more common yet are vocabulary words. Outside of the Celtic {KLD} languages (Welsh, Cornish, Manx, Gaelic, Breton, etc.) NO LANGUAGE ON EARTH (with the possible exception of Basque, which could be derived from Hebrew {BR} when the ancient Danites {DN} inhabited the Iberian {BR} Peninsula before migrating to Hibernia {BR}, now called Ireland) CAN CLAIM to be even REMOTELY related to Hebrew {BR}, as none of them to the best of my knowledge have more than a small smattering of words and phrases ADOPTED from Hebrew {BR}.

Now before you go out on a limb and say that Welsh and Hebrew {BR} don't look alike, be aware of several things. First, Welsh is written from LEFT to RIGHT, while today Hebrew is written from RIGHT to LEFT, although anciently Hebrew could be written EITHER LEFT to RIGHT OR RIGHT to LEFT. Second, Welsh and Hebrew use DIFFERENT alphabets. Third, written Welsh uses vowels and ancient written Hebrew does NOT use vowels, although modern Hebrew does use 'vowel points'. Fourth, over time the vocabularies and structures of both have diverged as new things and new ideas needed to be expressed. Fifth, Welsh sometimes uses two or more words to replace the original Hebrew word and vice versa, but when you concatenate all of these words into a single word, this concatenated word is exactly the same as the word in the other language with exactly the same meaning. To compare these languages, one must use sentences and words extant in ancient Hebrew. When one does this, an extremely large number of these sentences have the same exact meaning in modern Welsh and when spoken can be understood by the modern Welsh. Is Welsh (and by extension, other Celtic languages) really a modernized version of ancient Hebrew? In my opinion, absolutely yes! Does this mean that the Celtic {KLD} peoples are DIRECT descendants of the ancient Hebrews {BR}? I see no other alternative.



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So, WHICH tribe could the Welsh (Cimmerians {KMR}) be descended from? The Welsh are world famous for their singing and their choirs. Which tribe of Israel contained the cantors of Israel? The tribe of Levi {LV}, whose sole duty was to educate Israel in the ways of God, which included all of the music of the Temple.

What about the names Wales and Welsh? Are they in any way connected to the tribe of Levi {LV}? Possibly, but I know of no way of proving/disproving this conjecture. Hebrew, both ancient and modern, uses ONLY consonants when writing, so the tribe Levi {LV} would be written "VL" in Hebrew which writes from right to left. The letters and sounds of V and W are often interchangeable from language to language, like in Latin and German and others. So, since the Welsh now write from left to right, could the name Wales (VaLes, or VL) be a holdover from when the ancestors of the Welsh were of the tribe of Levi {LV} and wrote Levi as "VL"? I don't know, but this seems reasonable given everything else that points to the Welsh being from the tribe of Levi {LV}.

In conclusion, everything points to the people of Wales (Cymry {KMR}) being descendants of ancient lost tribes of Israel, probably from the tribe of Levi {LV}.

Michelle - April 18, 2016 at 4:46 pm

Another interesting tidbit: the House of Omri (Israelites) was referred to as 'Bit Humri' or Bet Omri'. There is a very popular Welsh motto which reads 'Cymru am byth!' (Wales forever!). It doesn't take much imagination to see the connection 'Bet Omri' vs 'Cymru (am) Byt(h)'. Long live the House of Omri!

## APPENDIX. DRUIDISM – A PERVERSION OF THE ISRAELITISH RELIGION

The following is taken from *The Introduction of Christianity into Britain* (Author Unknown) c1960, UK.

"On examination, Druidism is found to be but a perversion of the true religion of the Hebrews, linked up with some of the ritual of the Baal worship. On this point we quote again from *Religions of Britain* p.41, "So near is the resemblance between the Druidical religion of Britain and the Patriarchal religion of the Hebrews, that we hesitate not to pronounce their origin the same". Again on page 42 of the same work, "Next to the Jewish in purity, we consider the ancient religion of Britain". Robert Stukely, also quoting ancient authors, tells us that the Druids represented their God by means of an old Oak selected with two arms .... He also, in common with Henry and others, says that no images were found in Britain before the Romans introduced them. (*Druidism in Britain*, p.15)

The following account of Druid worship is from Hulbert's *Religions of Britain*. "The dress of the druids was white, and that of the druid in his habit of ceremonial judgement was very grand. On his head he wore a golden tiara and his neck was encircled by a breastplate of judgement. Their meetings were held in conspicuous places in the open air, and while the sun was above the horizon, for their laws forbade their performing these ceremonies in his absence. The premier bard stood in the centre, by the side of a large stone.

This circle was denominated Cylch Gyngrair, or the circle of the federation; and the middle stone, Mean Llog, or the stone of the covenant. Upon the stone altars, before which the priests officiated, occasionally blazed a large fire, the sacred emblem of that true God who once manifested his presence 'by a bush and a pillar of fire, whose tremendous voice once issued out of the midst of the fire, who prescribed a perpetual fire to be kept on the altar of burnt offerings in Jerusalem, and whom an holy apostle designates with the appellation of consuming fire'."

Wylie's *History of Scotland*, p.71 states: "There is one fact which throws a pleasing light on these remote times of our country - no idol or graven image has even been dug up in our soil ... In the lands of Greece and Italy, Syria and of India long buried deities are ever and anon cropping up and showing themselves in the light of day, but no such phenomenon has ever occurred on the soil of Scotland. Relics of all sorts have been found in our soil, but never idol of British manufacture, nor is one such to be found in any of our Museums".

On page 110 "There are others who are equally confident that Caledonia was nearly as brightly illuminated as Judaea itself, and place the priesthood of the Druids only a little way below the priesthood of the Hebrews.

Cassell's *History of England* states: "The Druidical rites and ceremonies in Britain were almost identical with the Mosaic ritual". McDermot, in his *History of Ireland*, gives thirteen specimens of identical customs of the Celtic and Hebrew races.

"Then we have the evidence of Hoare's 'Wiltshire' which states that the facsimile of a Hebrew breastplate, the same nearly as that originally worn by the Hebrew high priest, was found in a

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cist, dug up at Stonehenge, and upon the breast of a skeleton of a British Druid." (*Druidism in Britain*, p.9, also *Crania Britannica*)" (pp. 2-3)

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