



# ***Beware of Spiritual Identity Theft***

***Truth about the Scriptural Lifestyle***

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Identity theft is the fastest rising crime in America. Each day the personal information of thousands is compromised and used by thieves. A spiritual identity theft also robs people of blessing and purpose. The criminals of society and religion have stolen the identity of millions.

Life is shaped by past experiences and surrounding culture. The language spoken, the food eaten, and the holidays celebrated are all predetermined by the culture a person lives within. For Bible believers, this is identity theft. People think they are American, Lutheran, or Baptist but they are not. They are more.

A person's true identity is found within the pages of the Bible. The Scriptures state, "if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise," Galatians 3:29. The original word for "seed" in this verse is "sperma," which means a "physical seed or descendant." Christians are not just spiritual heirs of salvation but direct physical descendants of Abraham.

Abraham had a special relationship with the Almighty, which led to him being blessed above all people. He would be given special land in the Middle East and have physical descendants "as numerous as the stars in the heavens." These blessings were passed to Abraham's son, Isaac and then given to Isaac's son, Jacob. "Be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body," Genesis 35:11.

Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, fathered twelve sons. These twelve sons and their families, became known as the twelve tribes of Israel. Israel isn't just a small sliver of land in the Middle East. *And Israel isn't just the Jewish people!* Israel is the family of Abraham. This family's bloodline has been scattered all over the world. As Romans 2:29 states, the identity of all disciples is Israel.

History proves that shortly after the rule of King David, the nation of Israel was tragically split in two. In 586BCE the two tribes that made up the Southern Kingdom were taken captive by the Babylonians. 70 years later many of these people returned to the Southern Kingdom, known as Judah, and rebuilt the Temple. They kept the Law and sought to worship as prescribed in the Scriptures. Today, the descendants from Judea are known as the "Jews."

In 722BCE the Northern Kingdom, comprised of 10 tribes from Ephraim, were scattered by the Assyrians. These Israelites mixed into the nations. Thus they lost their identity and forgot their Hebrew heritage. They continued to grow and multiply, spreading their bloodline all over the world. A recent NBC News article estimates over a tenth of today's population is directly descended from this group. Today they are known as the "lost 10 tribes of Israel."

The Jewish people began their return to the Land in 1948. As fulfillment to Biblical prophecy in Ezekiel 37 and elsewhere, the lost tribes are slowly returning to their identity as people recognize they are Israel.

The Savior said in John 4:22, "Salvation is of the Jews." This doesn't mean that a person must convert to Judaism. This means the true pathway of faith can be found within the lineage and lifestyle of the Hebrews. All of the promises in the Bible made to Israel are for today. All of the commandments in the Bible that were given to Israel are also for today. Being Israel isn't about being Jewish, but recognizing the identity theft of the world and the Almighty's true plan for man. To learn more about the Biblical lifestyle visit [www.findemet.com](http://www.findemet.com).