It was in this ministry of reconciliation that Paul was to bring the northern kingdom back into unity with the southern kingdom. This was no easy task as the Jews had done a pretty good job in widening the existing gap with their added laws. Again, these laws later became known as the Talmud Along with these laws, the Jews actually created a physical barrier in the temple court. Gentile proselytes were not allowed past this wall.

In addressing this topic of uniting the two kingdoms in the book of Ephesians, Paul refers to this wall as a metaphor in addressing the law of the Jews... Ephesions 2:11 16

Ephesians 2:11-16

"Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)

¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, *the dividing* wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace,

¹⁶and in this one body to *reconcile both of them to God through the cross*, by which he put to death their *hostility*.

Their hostility? What hostility? And where did it originate?

Leviticus 26:21

²¹If you remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me, I will multiply your afflictions seven times over, as your sins deserve.

Christ removed their hostility and rebellion towards the Father, and one another, through the cross, enabling the two to become one again.

This happens to be the same law Paul refers to in the book of Colossians... **Colossians 2:15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Deuteronomy 12:32 ³²See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.

The southern kingdom added to it and the northern kingdom took away from it. Either way, it's rebellion against God's law.

This is why Isaiah said to the southern kingdom... Isaiah 53:6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and (Yahweh) the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Incidentally, it just so happens to be the same pattern today as it was in the day of Paul's ministry. The Jews add to the law and the gentiles take away from it,

both groups violating Deuteronomy 4:2, just in their own way. **Deuteronomy 4:2** ²Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

And today we see some of the same issues that Paul struggled with in his ministry. For there are some who still remain hostile to God's law just as those that did in Paul's day.

Romans 8:6-8

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Romans 9:30-32

³⁰What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness **(they rebelled against it)**, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹ but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.

³²Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works (**not from a heart to obey but rather out of duty and that of works of man**). They stumbled over the "stumbling stone."

Romans 11:25-27

²⁵ For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in; ²⁶ and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written,

"THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB." " "AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

Two key phrases must be noted here. First, "the fullness of the gentiles". This is a direct reference of the prophecy spoken over Ephraim in Genesis.

Genesis 48:19

¹⁰But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."

The "melo ha' goyim," the fullness of the nations... the fullness of the gentiles. And second, "ALL Israel will be saved". Meaning the southern kingdom and the northern kingdom. The Jew and the gentile all coming together.

Romans 11:26 ²⁶ and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written...

Romans 11 is all about the two olive trees, the cultivated and the wild, representing the two kingdoms. The emphasis being that the kingdom or olive tree that was broken is now coming back together. For it was said...

Jeremiah 11:16

¹⁶ The LORD called you a thriving olive tree with fruit beautiful in form. But with the roar of a mighty storm he will set it on fire, and its branches will be broken.

Ezekiel 37:15-24

¹⁵ The word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁶ "Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, 'Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.' Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, 'Ephraim's stick, belonging to Joseph and all the house of Israel associated with him.' Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand.

¹⁸ "When your countrymen ask you, 'Won't you tell us what you mean by this?' _"say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign (Yahweh)LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph which is in Ephraim's hand and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick, making them a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.'

²⁰Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on 21 and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign (Yahweh) LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land.

²²I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms.

²³They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God. 24 My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees.

The focus of Christ was to bring His Kingdom back together as one. One in the faith of Abraham, obedience. Christ was not concerned with what one's physical lineage was or the boasting that came with it. His concern was obedience.

John 8:39

""Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did.

This is HUGE. Christ is saying here that ANYONE who does what Abraham did is considered the children of Abraham. Well, what did Abraham do?

Genesis 26:4-5

⁴I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, *because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws.*"
According to the words of Christ, those who obey God's commands are those who can truly call Abraham their father. Think about what He said later to the Jews ... the physical descendants of Abraham.

John 10:24-27

²⁴ The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Even of those who may be actual descendants of Abraham, if they do not obey God's commands, then they are not considered children of Abraham. Again, the focus of Christ was to bring His kingdom back together as one. One in the Faith of Abraham. Not just together as one, but one in obedience to the Father. It truly makes no difference what tribe one may be from ... or if they have any Hebrew heritage at

This is why Paul said ... **1Timothy 1:4** Anor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work which is by faith.

The faith that produces the obedience of Abraham... James 2:21-24

²¹Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?
²²You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

²³And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

One's genealogy did not guarantee salvation. For even when they left Egypt there were foreigners who came along with Israel: Exodus 12:38

³⁸A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock.

Numbers 11:4

Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so <u>the children</u> of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat?

This mixed multitude, is defined by God Himself, to be as Children of Israel. And, all are to follow the same law of God.

Numbers 15:15-16

¹⁵ The community is to have the same rules for you and for the alien living among you; this is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. You and the alien shall be the same before the LORD: "The same laws and regulations will apply both to you and to the alien living among you.""

Consider also Ruth, she was a Moabite, yet in coming into the faith, she considered Israel's God to be her God, and His ways to be her ways. What mattered then, and still today, is that we are walking in the faith of Abraham. The faith that produces the obedience of Abraham. Obedience to God's Law.

It was in **this** that Paul saw many struggle. The question then becomes, "Why did they struggle with this?" As Paul says.

2 Corinthians 3:13-16

¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. ¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away.

¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

They struggled because of the veil. Exactly what veil though? The same veil that covered Moses' face? Did that veil keep them from understanding the law that Moses gave at that time? Of course not. The law was given at the time his face shone!

Exodus 34:29-35

29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. 30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.

31 But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. 32 Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai. 33 When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face.

34 But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, 35 they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

2 Corinthians 3:14-15 ¹⁴But *their minds were made dull*, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

It wasn't Moses' veil that made their minds dull or covered their hearts as verse 15 says. Paul here is showing that when the law was read, that the same veil came over their hearts as it did when it first began covering them in 721 BC.

Lamentations 3:65 ⁶⁵Put a veil over their hearts, and may your curse be on them! (the curse of the law)

Paul, who knew the law and the prophets, is explaining the veil mentioned by Jeremiah here in Lamentations and the curse of the law ... the curse of sin and death. It is in Christ only that this veil and curse is taken away as the verse says. Thus, only in Christ is the Kingdom reunited.

Uniting Israel back together was a huge issue. The mere fact that Israel was divided should say something to us. Remember that Christ Himself said... Luke 11:17

"... "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall."

This is why the disciples asked Christ ... Acts 1:6-7

"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know..."

The disciples were under the impression that Christ was going to restore the Kingdom of Israel as it was before it was divided. But the prophecy of Hosea was still to come.

Hosea 6:1-2

Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.

Though we know Christ made it possible for the return to begin, the restoration would not fully come to fruition until we were in the 3rd day of the punishment that was given. Is there a way for us to know where we are in the grand scheme of this timeline? We believe so... The tribe of Judah was to be held captive for 70 years according to Daniel and Jeremiah.

Knowing this, is there a time frame given regarding the amount of time for northern kingdom being dispersed? Consider

Ezekiel 4:1-5

Now, son of man, take a clay tablet, put it in front of you and draw the city of Jerusalem on it. Then lay siege to it: Erect siege works against it, build a ramp up to it, set up camps against it and put battering rams around it.

³ Then take an iron pan, place it as an iron wall between you and the city and turn your face toward it. It will be under siege, and you shall besiege it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel. 4 Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the house of Israel upon yourself.

You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side. I have assigned you the same number of days as the years of their sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel.

So, according to this Scripture in Ezekiel, the northern kingdom of Israel should have begun being restored after 390 years. This would take us to approximately 331 BC. However, history proves that never happened. So what else do the Scriptures give us that can shed light on this? The book of Leviticus also covers the penalty of disobedience to God's law, as a whole, as well...

Leviticus 26:14-16

¹⁴But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands, ¹⁵and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant, ¹⁶then I will do this to you...

In the midst of saying what would happen to them, He then says... Leviticus 26:18

punish you for your sins seven times over.

Leviticus 26:21

²¹If you remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me, I will multiply your afflictions seven times over, as your sins deserve.

So the punishment that would be declared would actually end up being 7 fold the given amount. The given punishment was 390 years as mentioned in Ezekiel. If we follow the scriptures as given in Leviticus and multiply that amount by 7, we end up with 2,730 years.
Which is after 2 days and in the 3rd of the punishment. We must subtract the 721 years as the punishment started in 721 BC. There is no year "0", so we take the remaining years to see when the Father started bringing the prophecy of Hosea 6:1 and 2 into fullness. This takes us to the year 2009.

This is NOT to say that a specific event was to take place in 2009 or 2010, but we propose that it could very well be the time when the process of the hearts of the Northern kingdom begin coming back to Him in large numbers; thus concluding the time of the northern kingdom's judgment.

The captivity, and especially the disbursement, of the northern kingdom didn't happen over days, weeks or even months. It was years for it to be completed. Likewise, the returning of His people back to His ways will take time as well.

Again, the work of Christ started the restoration but it's in this 3rd day that He completes the restoration. As Hosea says... Hosea 6:2

²After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.

The phrase "that we may live in his presence" actually points us toward the time of the millennium.

THIS is the revival that needs to be preached today. That He is bringing His people back to His ways, back to His decrees, back to His Law.

Deuteronomy 30:1-5

When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever (Yahweh) the LORD your God disperses you among the nations, and when you and your children return to (Yahweh) the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today,

then (Yahweh) the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there (Yahweh) the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back. He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.

This is not regarding the Exodus from Egypt. This was spoken 40 years after Egypt to the second generation of those who left there. This prophecy of another exodus has yet to take place! The time is coming when the Father will bring ALL of Israel, both the southern AND northern kingdom back to the land.

Micah 2:12

¹²I will surely gather *all of you*, O Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people.

Ezekiel 20:34, 41)

³⁴I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered--with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with out-poured wrath.

⁴ I will accept you as fragrant incense when I bring you out from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will be proved holy through you in the sight of the nations.

Jeremiah 23:7-8)

"So then, the days are coming," declares the L_{ORD}, "when people will no longer say, 'As surely as the L_{ORD} lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' sbut they will say, 'As surely as the L_{ORD} lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' Then they will live in their own land."

Deuteronomy 4:25

²⁵After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time — if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD your God and provoking him to anger, ²⁶I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed.

²⁷(Yahweh) The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which (Yahweh) the LORD will drive you. 28 There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell.

²⁹But if from there you seek (Yahweh) the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. ³⁰When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in *later days* you will return to (Yahweh) the LORD your God and obey him.

We are truly in the latter days as His people are returning to Him in obedience. The day is coming when ALL 12 tribes, AND those who have joined in becoming citizens of Israel, will be back as one, prepared and ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb.