

ISRAELITES IN JUDAH ?

Israelites From All Tribes Lived In Judah

Not all of the Ten Tribes were taken away by the Assyrians

And How This Relates To Christian Replacement Theology

In some religious circles today, some Pastors and their followers believe that today's Israel is not the Biblical Israel. Some go on to expound or teach that those who returned to establish the modern state Israel are only the descendants of the Jews from the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The majority of these people sincerely believe the entire Northern Kingdom of Israel was totally taken away by the Assyrians and removed to another land. Shortly thereafter most of them lost their identity and history. Some were assimilated, while most were dispersed or migrated throughout various foreign lands.

A question that arises, which needs to be addressed:

Is their belief true, in total or only in part?

The answer to this will surprise many of them and upset or even anger some!

Simply because this is one of the main foundation stones, so to speak, for a doctrine known as Replacement Theology. At the heart and core of this Replacement Theology is a prerequisite need, for physical Israel to disappear. The Church can then become Israel's replacement and the inheritor of all the promises and blessings, which were to be given to Israel. This theology declares that the Church is now the true Biblical and Spiritual Israel!

So, did all of the Tribes of Israel totally disappear from both History and from Scripture, with the end of the Northern Kingdom?

To find out the Biblical answer, we should probably start by looking at the Biblical account of the two Kingdoms, Israel and Judah, and what literally transpired in both of them.

The Kingdom Divided, Jeroboam Rules Israel and Rehoboam Rules Judah

1 Kings 12:16-17 (NASB)

(16) When all Israel saw that the King did not listen to them, the people answered the King, saying, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; To your tents, O Israel! Now look after your own house, David!" So Israel departed to their tents.

(17) But as for the **sons of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah**, Rehoboam reigned over them.

Notice: Some of the children of Israel (Israelites) lived in the territory and cities of Judah and not in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Not only that, but also many chose to remain in the Southern Kingdom. This Kingdom was named Judah because Judah was the dominant tribe, even though the Tribe of Benjamin and its land was also within the territory of the Southern Kingdom.

Rehoboam, the King of the Southern Kingdom, also retained the loyalty of the Levites and their Tribe stood with him consistently.

2 Chronicles 11:13-16 (NASB)

(13) Moreover, the Priests and the **Levites** who were in all Israel stood with him from all their districts.

(14) For the **Levites** left their pasture lands and their property and came to Judah and Jerusalem for Jeroboam and his sons had excluded them from serving as priests to the Lord.

(15) He (Jeroboam) set up Priests of his own for the high places, for the satyrs, and for the calves which he had made.

(16) **Those from all the tribes of Israel** who set their hearts on seeking the Lord God of Israel followed them (the Levites) to Jerusalem, to sacrifice to the Lord God of their fathers.

We see the defection of the Levites as well as numerous members of the other Ten Tribes who set their heart to seek and serve God. They chose to relocate to the territory of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

At this point, we now have a substantial number of people from the Ten Northern Tribes living in, and having become a part of, the Kingdom of Judah, even though they are not Jews by blood. We now have members of all the Tribes of Israel living in the Kingdom named Judah. However, Judah was still by number the dominant Tribe.

All of this transpired at the time of the split, when the two separate Kingdoms first came into existence.

As time went on we see that the presence of these other Tribes did not decrease. If anything the numbers of people from the other Tribes increased. From the Biblical accounts, it appeared that their percentages of increase might have been quite substantial.

2 Chronicles 15:8-10 (NASB)

(8) Now when Asa heard these words and the prophecy which Azariah the son of Oded the prophet spoke, he took courage and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and **Benjamin** and from the cities which he had captured in the hill country of **Ephraim**. He then restored the altar of the Lord, which was in front of the porch of the Lord.

(9) He gathered all Judah and **Benjamin** and those from **Ephraim**, **Manasseh** and **Simeon** who resided with them (in Judah), **for many defected to him from Israel** when they saw that the Lord his God was with him.

(10) So they assembled at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa's reign.

By this point, the numbers of people from each of the Tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh and Simeon are so large that they are named individually. Plus it also mentions the other defectors from the rest of the Tribes of Israel as being an additional group.

Around the year 722 B.C. the Northern Kingdom of Israel went into captivity. The Assyrians began to relocate the majority of their population.

2 Kings 17:6 (NASB)

(6) In the ninth year of Hoshea, the King of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, in the cities of the Medes.

What was happening in the Southern Kingdom of Judah? As we have seen already, a substantial number of Israelites from all of the Tribes were already living within the territory of Judah as well as in their cities. The Kingdom of Judah, with Hezekiah as its King, ultimately prevailed against the Assyrians.

2 Kings 18:7-11 (NASB)

(7) And the Lord was with him (Hezekiah); wherever he went he prospered. And he rebelled against the King of Assyria and did not serve him.
 (8) He defeated the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.
 (9) Now in the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah King of Israel, Shalmaneser King of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it.
 (10) At the end of three years they captured it; in the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea King of Israel, Samaria was captured.
 (11) Then the King of Assyria carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and put them in Halah and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes,

After Hezekiah prevailed against the Assyrians he sought to be obedient to the Almighty and celebrate the Passover.

2 Chronicles 30:1, 6 (NASB)

(1) Now Hezekiah sent to **all Israel** and Judah and wrote letters also to **Ephraim** and **Manasseh**, that they should come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover to the Lord God of Israel.
 (6) And the couriers went throughout **all Israel** and Judah with the letters from the hand of the King and his princes, even according to the command of the King, saying, "O **sons of Israel**, return to the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that He may return to those of you **who escaped** and are left from the hand of the King of Assyria".

We have seen earlier in scripture that there were Israelites from all of the Tribes of Israel already living in the Territory of the Kingdom of Judah. This was obvious prior to Assyria making its move of conquest south into the territory of the Kingdom of Israel. Scripture clearly states that there were also those who had escaped the hand of the Assyrian King and his

dispersion of the Northern Kingdom's population. There were still many who fortunately escaped the captivity and forcible relocation of their fellow countrymen by Assyria.

In the next two verses (2 Chronicles 31:5-6), scripture shows that the people from **all** the tribes of Israel responded to Hezekiah's letter. Those who escaped the Assyrians, have their response documented in verse 5 (of 2 Chronicles 31). And the children of Israel who had already been living in the Territory of the Kingdom of Judah have their response documented in verse 6. Again, the following occurs after Hezekiah had sent out the letter, which was after Hezekiah had prevailed against Assyrians, and after most of the population of the Northern Kingdom of Israel had already been taken away.

2 Chronicles 31:5-6 (NASB)

(5) And as soon as the order spread, the **sons of Israel** provided in abundance the first fruits of grain, new wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of all.

(6) The **sons of Israel** and Judah **who lived in the cities of Judah** also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of sacred gifts which were consecrated to the Lord their God, and placed them in heaps.

As time passes, the both of these remnants of the Tribes of Israel continues to exist in the Territory of Judah. By this time they were an important part to the population within the Kingdom of Judah. With this passage of time, their national identity gradually became Jewish since they lived in Judah. The religion of the Kingdom is also referred to as being Jewish and those who practiced it were also referred to as Jews or Jewish. Even though the Priests were **not** from the Tribe of Judah, they were considered to be Jewish, it must be remembered that they were from the Tribe of Levi, not Judah. Even so, the Levites are still referred to as being Jewish, as are the rest of the inhabitants of the Territory known as Judah or The Kingdom of Judah, even though a large number of them are from the other Tribes of Israel.

Josiah Repairs the Temple

2 Chronicles 34:8-9 (NASB)

(8) Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah an official of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the Lord his God.

(9) They came to Hilkiah the high Priest and delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the **Levites**, the doorkeepers, had collected from **Manasseh** and **Ephraim**, and from **all the remnant of Israel**, and from all Judah and **Benjamin** and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Josiah's reign is a century after the Assyrians removed most of the inhabitants of the Northern Kingdom of Israel into obscurity. Yet, scripture clearly shows that a substantial remnant from all the other Tribes of Israel are still in existence in the Territory and Cities of Judah, a century later!

2 Chronicles 35:1-3 (NASB)

(1) Then Josiah celebrated the Passover to the Lord in Jerusalem, and they slaughtered the Passover animals on the fourteenth day of the first month.

(2) He set the Priests in their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the Lord.

(3) He also said to the **Levites** who taught **all Israel** and who were holy to the Lord, "Put the Holy Ark in the house which Solomon the son of David King of Israel built; it will be a burden on your shoulders no longer. Now serve the Lord your God and His people Israel.

2 Chronicles 35:16-19 (NASB)

(16) So all the service of the Lord was prepared on that day to celebrate the Passover, and to offer burnt offerings on the altar of the Lord according to the command of King Josiah.

(17) Thus the **sons of Israel** who were present celebrated the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days.

(18) There had not been celebrated a Passover like it in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet; nor had any of the Kings of Israel celebrated such a Passover as Josiah did with the Priests, the **Levites**, all Judah **and Israel** who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

(19) In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign this Passover was celebrated.

Remember: Josiah's reign is a century after the Assyrians removed most of the inhabitation of the Northern Kingdom of Israel into obscurity. Scripture is clearly showing that a substantial remnant from all the other Tribes of Israel were still in existence, within both the Territory and the Cities of Judah, a century later!

Years later Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, moves south against the Kingdom of Judah to conquer it.

2 Kings 24:10-16 (NASB)

(10) At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon went up to Jerusalem, and the city came under siege.

(11) And Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon came to the city, while his servants were besieging it.

(12) And Jehoiachin the King of Judah went out to the King of Babylon, he and his mother and his servants and his captains and his officials.

So the King of Babylon took him captive in the eighth year of his reign.

(13) And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the King's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon King of Israel had made in the temple of the Lord, just as the Lord had said.

(14) Then he led away into exile all Jerusalem and all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land.

(15) So he led Jehoiachin away into exile to Babylon; also the King's mother and the King's wives and his officials and the leading men of the land, he led away into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

(16) And all the men of valor, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the smiths, one thousand, all strong and fit for war, and these the King of Babylon brought into exile to Babylon.

We see that Nebuchadnezzar took from the general population, which included those from all the Tribes living within the Kingdom of Judah. Only a few were left.

After years in Babylon, a group was allowed to return to the Land from where their families had been forcibly removed and taken to Babylon.

Ezra 2:1-2 (NASB)

(1) Now these are the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city.

(2) These came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.

The number of the men of the people of Israel:

The next 59 verses or so give an account of the numbers of men who returned to the land of Judah and Jerusalem. Also it declares their origin.

Notice that it says: “The number of the men of the people of Israel”,

The scripture that does not say, only from Judah!

Ezra 2:64 (NASB)

(64) The whole assembly numbered 42,360

The account of those who returned to the land of Judah and the city of Jerusalem is also repeated in Nehemiah chapter 7, where when speaking of the returnees, it also says; “**The number of the men of the people of Israel**”. Remember, scripture does NOT say that they were only from the Tribe of Judah!

How then is it that some are saying, these people who are the descendants of those Israelites who returned to live in the land and cities of Judah or Judea, are only from the Tribe of Judah? They were the children of Israel who were later scattered throughout the rest of the world by the Romans. So now, their descendants have returned to establish the Modern State of Israel. We have seen that they were NOT limited to only being from the Tribe of Judah! Yet sadly, some people still continue to claim that the Modern State of Israel is not the fulfillment of the Biblical prophecies of the return and restoration of Israel. They still think, for whatever reason that they are only from the Tribe of Judah. Perhaps they need to do a bit more Bible Study on this topic.

As was shown earlier, the remnant of the Tribes of Israel continued to exist in the Territory of Judah. They were an important part to the population within the Kingdom of Judah. As time had passed their National identity gradually became Jewish, because they lived in Judah. As we pointed out earlier, the religion of the Kingdom is also referred to as being Jewish and those that practiced it are also referred to as Jews or Jewish, even though the Priests are not from the Tribe of Judah, but rather from the Tribe of Levi. Even so, the Levites are still referred to as being Jewish, as are the rest of the inhabitants of the Territory known as Judah or The Kingdom of Judah, even though a large number of them are from the other Tribes of Israel. Later the Romans scattered them throughout the world. Now in modern times some of their descendants have returned and established the Modern State of Israel, just as Scripture had foretold!

In addition to the all of the documentation about the Israelites who were living in Judah, we should also take the time to mention the numerous Israelite settlements. Before, during and after the time of Solomon, there was an on going development of numerous Israelite settlement throughout the Mediterranean, Black Sea and on into the Atlantic (some may, or may not, have even extended to the New World). Solomon also built another fleet of ships in Ezion-Geder at the northern tip of the Red Sea. These additional ships went south and east through the Red Sea into the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and on into the Indian Ocean. Along their way, they established additional Israelite settlements. By the time the Assyrians marched south to conquer the Northern Kingdom of Israel, substantial numbers of Israelites had taken up residence in these numerous settlements. These settlements flourished both to the east and to the west of the Holy Land. It was to one of these settlements to the west, through the Mediterranean and on into the Atlantic, to which Jonah was fleeing. He was trying to get away from God, by running to an Israelite settlement at a place called Tarshish. Most historians believe that this settlement was on the Atlantic coast of Spain, about half way between Gibraltar and what is today, the southern border of Portugal. None of the Israelites living in these settlements were ever affected directly by the forced Assyrian exile. They continued to live in their own homes in each of these settlements, just as the other Israelites did who were living in the Kingdom of Judah.

By this time, there were three distant Israelite populations. One population of Israelites had been living in the Kingdom of Judah. Latter these inhabitants would be taken to Babylon. Another population had developed in the many Israelite settlements, extending both to the east and to the west, of the Holy Land. The last, and arguably the largest in number, was the Israelite population that had been taken into exile by the Assyrians

The question arises again: What about the descendants of the Israelites who were taken away by the Assyrians? Perhaps a hint of this can be found in the book of Ezekiel. If so, we might find some answers?

Ezekiel 37:15-22 (KJV)

- (15) The word of the Lord came again to me saying,
 (16) “And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it,
‘For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions’;
 then take another stick and write on it,
**‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.’ ”
 (17) “Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick,
 that they may become one in your hand.”
 (18) “And when the sons of your people speak to you saying,
 ‘Will you not declare to us what you mean by these?’
 (19) say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph,
 which is in the hand of **Ephraim**, and **the tribes of Israel**, his companions;
 and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick,
 and they will be one in My hand.” ’**

Genesis 48:17-19 (NASB)

- (17) When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on Ephraim’s head, it displeased him; and he grasped his father’s hand to remove it from **Ephraim’s** head to Manasseh’s head.

(18) And Joseph said to his father,
 “Not so, my father, for this one is the first-born.
 Place your right hand on his head.”
 (19) But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know;
 he also shall become a people and he also shall be great.
 However, his younger brother shall be greater than he,
 and **his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.**”

(20) “And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.”
 (21) “And say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God,’ “Behold, I will take
 the **sons of Israel from among the nations** where they have gone,
 and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;
 (22) and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel;
 and they will no longer be divided into two Kingdoms.”

Notice that in verse 16 of Ezekiel 37 it says, “**For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions**”. It said the sons of Israel but later in the verse a different population is called the house of Israel, “**Ephraim** and all the house of Israel, his companions”. The sons of Israel are the companions of Judah and the house of Israel are the companions of Ephraim. These are two different populations of Israelites!

In Genesis 48:17-19, when it speaks of the descendants of Ephraim becoming a multitude of Nations. What is it prophetically referring to? Some think that it appears to be making a reference to all of those of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, which the Assyrians carried off into exile. There most of them lost their identity and were dispersed or migrated to other lands. If so, then perhaps the way in which the two have been merged back together is what occurred during the Roman dispersion. When they were scattered throughout the world, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who kept their religion and identity received converts from among the populations where they were scattered. Could it be that some of those who had lost their identity would then convert from their paganism back to the religion of their ancestors? Since most, if not all, would not have even known that they were of the same ancestry. Could this have been enough to fulfill at least part, if not all, of these two prophecies in Ezekiel and Genesis?

If this is so, then where does it leave the Christian Churches and those denominations that embrace the doctrine known as Replacement Theology?

When one looks in the New Testament, instead of Replacement Theology, we find something else. We see that Paul addresses this concept, using as an analogy of two Olive Trees, one wild and one cultivated. The wild olive tree represents the Gentiles and the cultivated olive tree represents the Children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Romans 11:17-24 (NASB)

(17) But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,

(18) do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who support the root, but the root supports you.

(19) You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.”

(20) Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited. But **fear**; (*be afraid!*)

(21) for if God did not spare the natural branches, **neither will He spare you.**

(22) Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise **you** also **will be cut off**.

(23) And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again.

(24) For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more shall these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?

Notice: that in verse 17 it says “**if some of the branches were broken off**”. It does **not say that all** of the branches were broken off! Notice also, it does not even say most, but only some. Yet even those, which had been broken off after going into non-observant Judaism, paganism (or had just become secular agnostics), or any other type of enticing religions, when they repent and return to God, they can be brought back into belief and regain their rightful place.

A fact that passes right over the heads of most individuals is that Paul is not talking to people who have become converts to some New Entity called The Church. He is talking to Gentiles who have converted (or at least were in the process of converting) to the original form of Messianic Judaism. The problem, which he is addressing, is that some of the Gentiles were acting as though they should become a New and Separate Religion. Paul is declaring to the Gentiles, that they can not be a Separate Religion and still be a true follower of Yeshua (Jesus). You need to remember Jesus who was Jewish, preached mainstream Jewish theology and was called, in the New Testament, “**Rabbi**”. Jesus was not developing a New Gentile Religion. Jesus told the woman at the well: “**...salvation is of the Jews**”. So it appears that Paul is telling them, if they try to separate themselves from God’s cultivated Olive Tree, that they will be broken off.

When we look at the relationship of God and His dealing with the Gentiles, one of the portions of scripture we should look at is Isaiah 65:1-4. It may not just refer to a single point of time. It may well be, in varying degrees, referring to various groups and individuals throughout history. The question is how much of it has, will, or can apply now, to those in today’s various Christian Churches who adhere so fervently to Replacement Theology?

Isaiah 65:1-4, 5-7 (NASB)

- (1) “**I PERMITTED** Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me;
I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me.
I said, ‘Here am I, here am I,’
To a nation which did not call on My NAME.”

- (2) "I have spread out My hand all day long to a rebellious people,
Who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts,
(3) A people who continually provoke Me to My FACE,...
(4) ... Who eat swine's flesh,
And the broth of unclean meat is in their pots."
(5) "Who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me,
For I am holier than you!'
These are smoke in My nostrils,
A fire that burns all the day."
(6) "Behold, it is written before Me,
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
I will even repay into their bosom,
(7) Both their own iniquities and the iniquities of their fathers together,"
Says the LORD....

Contrast that with the Righteous Remnant of the tribes of Israel, which The Almighty has kept for Himself over the centuries. They are the ones who made up the roots and trunk of the cultivated olive tree. **What about them!**

What about all of those who, both they and their ancestors did ask for God?
What about all of those who, both they and their ancestors, did seek God?
What about the Remnant of the nation which continually did call on His NAME?
What about those who seek with all their heart, to keep the Commandments of God,
Who do not eat swine's flesh.
And refuse to have the broth of any unclean meat in their pots?

How many of those in the Church, who also hold to the Replacement Theology, eat swine's flesh (Pork, Ham, Bacon, Sausage and so on) and have the broth of unclean meat is in their pots (Cat Fish, Lobster, Shrimp, Crab, Clam Chowder, etc.)? Could it be possible that they are some of the people who God says are **continually provoking Him to His FACE?**

And when it comes to the Jewish and Israelite Remnant, the Righteous ones, who would never eat such things; these same Church members would never say to them, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, **For I am holier than thou!**' For **I'm the one who's going to be Raptured!** Naaaaa, they wouldn't think or say anything like that; now would they?

What was it that Scripture said, that **He** (God) was going to do with both the Righteous and Unrighteous descendents of Abraham Isaac and Jacob?

Isaiah 11:12-13 (NASB)

(12) And **He** (God) will lift up a standard for the nations,
And will assemble the banished ones of **Israel**,
And will gather the dispersed of **Judah**
From the four corners of the earth.

(13) Then the jealousy of **Ephraim** will depart,
And those who harass **Judah** will be cut off;
Ephraim will not be jealous of **Judah**,
And **Judah** will not harass **Ephraim**.

Is it possible, that this passage of Scripture is referring to those who have come from the *four corners* of the earth to populate the modern day state of Israel?

Or is there to be another fulfillment?

If Israel has not been removed from history or from their Biblical blessings;
then where does that leave the Church?

How then can the Church fully access the Blessings of God, promises to Israel?

To do so, wouldn't the New Testament Church still needs to be a part of The Olive Tree?

Perhaps the True Church might even still need to be grafted into and be a part of Judaism?

Not allowing its branch to be broken or cut off!

And **NOT** seeking to sprout roots, to make itself a Separate and Distanced Religion!

If this is truly so, what effect should this have on those who truly want to serve God?

For some, this will have the effect of stimulating them into developing a whole **NEW** interest and study of what has been known throughout much of history as Judaic-Christianity (Judaeo-Christians). Which today in the United States is more commonly known, to most people, as either Messianic-Judaism or Messianic-Christianity.

So, whether you think all of this is so, or not.

Remember: either way,

GOD WILL BE THE ONE,

WHO HAS THE FINAL SAY!