

Right Division Soundbites # 9

Twelve for Israel / One for the Body of Christ

Years ago a list of contrasts, prepared by a 'mid-Acts' dean, was made available for distribution. It was titled 'Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth', and suggested as soundbites to create teaching situations. There were 26 separate issues listed. We plan to deal with one topic on Sunday mornings.

For your information, the titles and verses (listed directly below in the box) are exactly as they appear on the dean's chart.

9. The number Twelve is associated with Israel Matt 19:28, Rev 7:4-8	The number One is the number associated with the Body of Christ Eph 4:3,4
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Though the dean began his verse list (which consists of just 2 scripture references) with the **12** disciples/apostles of Christ we will back up to the beginning of the nation Israel yea, the beginning of **MANY nations** (which we know, are Gentiles) to **1** man, Abraham:

Gen 17:4-6 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and **thou shalt be a father of many nations.**

5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be **Abraham**; for **a father of many nations** have I made thee.

6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and **I will make nations of thee**, and kings shall come out of thee.

Before Joseph revealed his true identity to his brothers, who were claiming not to be spies, the scriptures shows that those 12 men came from 1 man:

Gen 42:13 And they said, **Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man** in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest (that was Benjamin) is this day with our father, and one (they figured, Joseph) is not.

That which shall befall the 12 sons of Jacob in the last days are prophesied in Gen 49:1-28, where they are called **'the 12 tribes of Israel':**

Gen 49:28 All these are **the twelve tribes of Israel:** and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.

God's promises to **Abraham** were passed **to Isaac not Ishamel**

(Gen 21:10, Gal 4:30, Rom 9:6-9)

and **through Isaac to Jacob not Esau**

(Rom 9:10-13, Mal 1:2-3, Gen 25:22-23)

and **through Jacob** (whose name God changed to Israel - Gen 32:28) **to his 12 sons.**

Stephen (Acts 6:8) reminded the council in the synagogue of this heritage:

Acts 7:8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision:

- and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day;
- and Isaac begat Jacob;
- and **Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.**

'Mid-Acts-ers' commonly push the dean's 9th point (that 12 is the number for Israel, in contrast to 1 being for the body of Christ). But not once did I ever hear any of them mention that **12** is the number for **Ishmael:**

Gen 17:20 And as for **Ishmael**, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; **twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.** (Gen 25:12-18 lists their names.)

When Jesus ministered, He chose 12 disciples and made them apostles:

Luke 6:12-13 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

13 And when it was day, he called unto him his **disciples:** and of them he chose **twelve**, whom also he named **apostles;**

Disciples are those who 'learn' Apostles are those who 'teach'.

Disciples 'follow after' Christ Apostles are 'sent out' by Christ to preach.

The dean used NONE of these verses we have looked at so far.

In the context of the dean's verse (Matt 19:16-27), a young man that had great possessions asked Jesus what good thing he should do that he may have eternal life. Jesus answered him to keep the commandments. He said he had kept them all. Jesus told him he lacked one thing to sell everything he had and give to the poor. The man went away sorrowful.

Matt 19:23-30 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying,

Who then can be saved?

26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Peter told the Lord they had given up everything to follow Him and wanted to know what reward they would get for their sacrifice. Jesus' answer (Matt 19:28) is the dean's first verse about the # 12 being associated with Israel:

27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That **ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

The next and only other passage to make the dean's list is about when God's angel will seal 144,000 Jewish (virgin - Rev 14:4) men

12,000 from each tribe except the 5th son of Jacob, Dan, is not in this list. One of Joseph's 2 sons, Manasses (Gen 48:1-20), is listed instead:

Rev 7:2-8 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed **the servants of our God** in their foreheads.

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed:

and there were sealed **an hundred and forty and four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

5 Of the tribe of Juda (the 4th son of Jacob, the tribe from which Jesus came - Heb 7:14) were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Reuben (the 1st son of Jacob) were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Gad (the 7th son of Jacob) were sealed twelve thousand.

6 Of the tribe of Aser (the 8th son of Jacob) were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Nephtalim (the 6th son of Jacob) were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Manasses (a son of Joseph, not Jacob) were sealed twelve thousand.

7 Of the tribe of Simeon (the 2nd son of Jacob) were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Levi (the 3rd son of Jacob, the priestly tribe) were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Issachar (the 9th son of Jacob) were sealed twelve thousand.

8 Of the tribe of Zabulon (the 10th son of Jacob) were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Joseph (the 11th son of Jacob) were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Benjamin (the 12th son of Jacob) were sealed twelve thousand.

Now for the 'contrast' side of the dean's list which he uses to teach

"the **number One** is the number associated with the Body of Christ":

Eph 4:3-4 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is **one body**, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

That's it! We looked at all the dean offered for this issue.

I have personally heard numerous 'mid-Acts-ers' repeat this paradigm

likely only coming 'through' the dean, as just a joker whose source is the Cunning Royal Jester, the school's president.

Here are some verses to consider that disprove the dean's chart.

Among ALL the nations Israel was singled out as '**ONE**' nation.

So could not the **number One** be associated with Israel? In the Bible, it is:

2 Sam 7:23 And **what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself,** and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

.... and yet again, '**one**' nation associating the **number one** with Israel:

1 Chron 17:21 And **what one nation in the earth is like thy people Israel, whom God went to redeem to be his own people,** to make thee a name of greatness and terribleness, by driving out nations from before thy people, whom thou hast redeemed out of Egypt?

God promised to bring the children of Israel back into their own land:

Ezek 37:22 And **I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel;** and **one king shall be king to them all:** and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:

In the Bible (not the dean's list) Israel gathered together as **'one' man**:

That is associating the **number one** with Israel:

Ezra 3:1 And when the seventh month was come,
and **the children of Israel** were in the cities,
the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.

.... and **'one' man** yet again associating the **number one** with Israel:

Neh 8:1 And **all the people gathered themselves together as one man** into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.

God promised to give Israel **'one' heart**.

That is associating the **number one** with Israel.

God also promised to give Israel **'one' way**.

That is associating the **number one** with Israel.

Jer 32:38-39 And **they shall be my people, and I will be their God**:
39 And **I will give them one heart, and one way**, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

.... and **'one' heart** yet again associating the **number one** with Israel:

Ezek 11:19-20 And **I will give them one heart**, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:
20 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and **they shall be my people, and I will be their God**.

Paul applied the SAME PROPHECY in the OLD testament to us Gen-

tiles the promise about US being God's people, and Him being our God:

2 Cor 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; **as God hath said**, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and **I will be their God, and they shall be my people**.

God promised to give Israel **'one' shepherd.**

That is associating the **number one** with Israel.

Ezek 34:23 And **I will set up one shepherd over them,** and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

.... and **'one' shepherd** yet again associating the **number one** with Israel:

Ezek 37:24 And David my servant shall be king over them; and **they all shall have one shepherd:** they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

.... and **'one' shepherd** associating the **number one** with Israel:

John 10:15-16 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 And **other sheep I have, which are not of this fold:** them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and **there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**

Through Caiaphas, the high priest, God promised to **gather His children in 'one'.** The prophecy was not only for the nation Israel but it was **specifically BROADENED to include ALL God's children to those even OUTSIDE that nation ANYWHERE they may be found:**

John 11:51-52 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, **he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;**

52 **And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.**

Jesus prayed for His disciples to be one. In **John 17:6,** He particularly named them as the men which God gave Him out of the world:

John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, **that they may be one,** as we are.

The **number one** in this next passage is associated with and applied to any believers in Christ Jesus who trust Him through the word of His apostles:

John 17:20-23 Neither pray I for these alone,
 but for **them also which shall believe on me through their word;**
 21 **That they all may be one;** as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee,
that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou
 hast sent me.
 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them;
that they may be one, even as we are one:
 23 I in them, and thou in me, **that they may be made perfect in one;**
 and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them,
 as thou hast loved me.

The **number one** in these next 2 verses is applied to a man and his wife.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother,
 and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be **one flesh.**

Matt 19:5-6 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and
 mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be **one flesh?**
 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but **one flesh.** What therefore God
 hath joined together, let not man put asunder. (also Mark 10:7-9)

**Paul applied the SAME PRINCIPLE of UNION from BEFORE the
 OLD testament and AFTER the OLD testament in marriage**

to be the promise about **the church** being '**one**' flesh with Christ:

Eph 5:31-32 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and
 shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be **one flesh.**
 32 This is a great mystery:
 but I speak concerning **Christ and the church.**

How long has Christ been in existence? How long has the church been
 in existence? (Remember Acts 7:38.) The BIBLE does not **DIVIDE the
 church** as the 'mid-Acts-ers' do. Rather, it **UNIFIES ALL** saints in Christ.

The SAME truth is taught in Hebrews but the dean, the Cunning Royal Jester, his Jokers, and their blind followers completely disregard it as having anything at all to do with us. **Are you sanctified? I am!**

(also see John 17: 19; Acts 20:32, 26:18; Rom 15:16; 1 Cor 1:2, 6:11; 2 Tim 2:21, Heb 10:10, 14; Jude 1:1)

Heb 2:11-12 For **both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one:** for which cause he is not ashamed to call them **brethren,** 12 Saying (**Psa 22:22**), I will declare thy name unto **my brethren, in the midst of the church** (church = congregation) will I sing praise unto thee.

Paul's writings confirm that we are not just 'brethren' with each other; clearly, as we just read in Hebrews **we are 'brethren' with Christ:**

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of **his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

Using the same references about us being **'one' flesh**

we are also **'one' spirit** joined unto the Lord:

1 Cor 6:16-17 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be **one flesh.** 17 But **he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.**

We have a common communion that Jesus initiated with His disciples, **the NEW testament** in HIS blood (Matt 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-20). Together, we are **'one' bread** and we are also **'one' body:**

1 Cor 10:16-17 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

17 For **we being many are one bread,**
and one body:

for we are all partakers of that **one bread.**

.... and **'one' body** yet again associating the **number one** with any and every one who is 'in Christ': (also 1 Cor 12:12-13, 20; Col 3:15)

Rom 12:4-5 For as **we have many members in one body,** and all members have not the same office:
5 So **we, being many, are one body in Christ,** and every one members one of another.

The **number one** in this next verse is associated to 'all'

regardless of nationality:

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for **ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

The **number one** is associated with **'one' new man** being formed from the circumcision and the uncircumcision seeing 'no difference' ever since God declared the Gentiles no longer common or unclean to Peter (in Acts 10:9-17,28; 11:9; 15:9-29):

Eph 2:14-16 For he is our peace, **who hath made both one,** and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;
15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain **one new man,** so making peace;
16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in **one body** by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Regarding the dean's issue #9

looking at these scriptures he should be embarrassed.

This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"