



British-Israelism & Christian Identity Movements

British-Israelism (also called **Anglo-Israelism**) is a composite of religious doctrines, first elaborated in 18th century England, whose common theme is that some ancient British people and/or royal lineages are direct lineal descendants of some of the [Ten Lost Tribes of Israel](#). Thus, **British-Israelism** was founded upon the claim that the English Anglo-Saxons were one of the **Ten Lost Tribes of Israel**. Moreover that the British monarch was the direct descendant of King David, were of the [Davidic Bloodline](#), and so, heir to "the throne of King David." In short, the British were the true Israelites and therefore "God's Chosen People." Moreover, by extension, that the Israelites of the *Bible* are not the [modern Jews](#), but, rather, today's Anglo-Saxons. These beliefs have spawned the **Christian Identity** movement.

British-Israelism relies upon the belief that large numbers of the **Ten Tribes of Israel** living in the Northern Kingdom of Israel were deported by Sargon, king of Assyria, on the fall of its capitol, Samaria, to him in 721 BC (2 Kings 17:5). After the downfall of the Northern Kingdom, the people were transported wholesale by the conqueror causing a massive depopulation of the land such that:

"... the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Avva, and from Hamath and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof" (2 Kings 17:24).

British-Israelism was originally not an ["anti-Semitic"](#) doctrine since its advocates typically viewed the modern Jews as legitimate descendants of Israel together with the Anglo-Saxon peoples. Moreover, today not all British-Israelites today are "anti-Semitic," nor are they all part of the **Christian Identity Movement**.