



Lost Tribes of Israel served by

JVMI:

The Beta Abraham | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia In the northern part of Ethiopia's capital city of Addis

Ababa, the Kechene area is home to the Beta Abraham Jewish community. Many of their ancestors outwardly converted to Christianity under religious persecution, and some Beta Abraham today continue to practice their Jewish traditions in secret.

The Beta Israel | Gondar & Tach Gayint, Ethiopia

In 1975, the Israeli government recognized the Beta Israel of Northern Ethiopia. In 1991, Operation Solomon transported 14,500 of these Ethiopian Jews to Israel in 36 hours of nonstop flights. When the flights discontinued, thousands were left behind and to this day live as outcasts in the Gondar community.

Though these groups of Jewish people have lived in Ethiopia for centuries, they are called Falasha, a derogatory term meaning "outcast" or "stranger."

The Gefat | Woliso & Hosanna, Ethiopia

The Gefat Jewish People in Southern Ethiopia strongly identify with Israel and observe biblical commandments given to God's Chosen People, including circumcising male babies on the eighth day, applying the blood of a sacrificial lamb to their doorposts at Passover, and celebrating the Leviticus 23 feasts. The Gefat are called Fuga by the surrounding people indicating "hated" or "disliked." Fuga means "blower," revealing a proud heritage of blowers of the shofar, but is now used as an insult to say, "we wish you would simply blow away."

● The Lemba | Southern Africa

The Lemba live in Southern African nations including Zimbabwe, South Africa, and other countries. They follow biblical dietary laws, have their own kosher butchers, practice circumcision, observe the Sabbath, and do not inter-marry. New evidence reveals that many Lemba have the Y chromosome frequently found in Jews identified as Cohanim suggesting they have ties to the Levites.

The Bnei Menashe | Manipur & Mizoram, India

The Bnei Menashe are descendants of the tribe of Manasseh residing in two states in northeastern India. Oral tribal histories say they were taken captive by Assyria when Israel was conquered. Some believe they traveled the ancient Silk Route east to central Asia, settled in China, and eventually migrated south to India. Their traditions include songs about the Exodus, wearing prayer shawls that feature a blue thread, and wearing kippahs. Thousands of Bnei Menashe have made aliyah (immigrated) to Israel.