A HOUSE DIVIDED

As an illustration, I’d like you to open your Bible. (Old Testament and New Testament.)

Open it so the Old Testament in its entirety is on your left and the New Testament in its entirety is on your right.

There are twelve tribes of Israel. Let’s say the left side of your Bible represents Judah and Benjamin, or who we know as the Jewish People. The right side represents Ephraim, the remaining ten lost/hidden tribes, or who we know as Christians. And the two together represent the whole House of Israel.

Matthew 15:24
24 But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

YOU MUST understand that the House of Israel are NOT all Jews. A Jew is a descendant of Judah, one of the 12 sons of Jacob. When the House of Israel split the tribes of Judah and Benjamin stayed together. Together they make up the tribe of Judah. There are ten more tribes of Israel and they are not of the tribe of Judah and, therefore, are not Jews.

A Jew is defined in Strong’s Concordance as:

H304 - Yehudiyy: A Jehudite (that is Judaeite or Jew), or descendant of Jehudah (that is, Judah) - Jew.

Most Jewish people (Judah), though they hold the truth of the Torah, they deny that Yehoshua (Jesus) is the Messiah and cling to their man made traditions. Therefore, they refuse what you see on the right side of your Bible. The Christians, though they hold the truth of our Messiah Yehoshua, deny the Law/Instructions/Torah of God by believing it does not
apply to their lives today. They too cling to man made traditions and continue to celebrate pagan holidays. Therefore, refusing what you see on the left side of your Bible.

Do you see that this Book in front of you is a house divided?

Mark 3:24-25
If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Now look at the tiny seam that lies in the center of both of these houses. Do you know what that represents?

Exodus 14:22
So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Isaiah 30:21
Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,”
Whenever you turn to the right hand
Or whenever you turn to the left.

Matthew 7:13-14
13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

The narrow path that leads to the Kingdom of Heaven is where the Old and the New meet. The Chosen Children of God will look like a sort of "Jewish Christian" if you will. They will keep the commands and the instructions of the Father, knowing they still apply to us today. They will keep His appointed times and Sabbaths. They will believe that Yehoshua is the Son of God who came to die for our sins so that we may RETURN to the Father and live righteously and
set apart to Him. They are covered by the blood of Yehoshua our Messiah and bear witness of Him as the Savior, the Living Torah/Word of YHVH.

We cannot stray too far to the left or to the right because then we fall onto dangerous ground. It is NOT an easy path to walk on. In fact, it will be the hardest thing you will ever do.

Luke 9:23
Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

Messiah told us He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. The Torah/Word of YHVH is referred to in the Old Testament as the Way, the Truth and the Life. We are told in the New Testament that Messiah IS the Word of God. Yet, many do not understand that, that makes them ONE. Not separate. One. Messiah did not come to replace the Father's Word, because He IS the Father's Word.

This "Way" is what Paul, who bore witness of Yehoshua the Messiah, spoke of.

Acts 24:14
14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.

In the book of Ezekiel God tells Ezekiel to take two sticks, representing the divided House of Israel, and make them one in His hand. Likewise, Messiah prayed for the ones that God had given Him, to make them one.

John 17:20-23
20 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We
are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Ezekiel 37:15-28
15 Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 16 “As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: ‘For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.’ Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.’ 17 Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand. 18 “And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, ‘Will you not show us what you mean by these?’ — 19 say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.”’” 20 And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. 21 “Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and 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 one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. 23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. 24 “David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. 25 Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. 26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them
and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. 27 My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 28 The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.””

It is quite possible that when Ezekiel held those two sticks together in his hand they came together in the form of the ancient Hebrew letter "Tav." The last letter of the Hebrew Aleph Bet, which looks like the lower case English letter "t" ...or better yet, a cross.
(see image)
http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_oVAtN7rLUA8/Stu504Bbz9I/AAAAAAAAABz0/qyTb6kKODvY/s400/Paleo-hebrew_-_tof.jpg

This "tav" is the mark YHVH places on His people. Allow me to explain.

It is no secret that YHVH hates idol worship. But many do not truly understand that YHVH also hates when His people use pagan idol worship practices to worship *Him* (Deuteronomy 12:30-31.) We continue to do these things even to this day.

In Ezekiel, we see how angry this makes Him. He tells Ezekiel to look at what His people are doing. Note: these are HIS People. Not the heathen, but Israel.

Ezekiel 8:13-17
13 And He said to me, “Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing.” 14 So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the Lord’s house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.

[side note: Tammuz is also associated with the pagan fertility goddess who is known by many names Ashteroth/Astarte/Ishtar/Easter.]

15 Then He said to me, “Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these.” 16 So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord’s house; and there, at the
door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east.

[side note: Easter sunrise services]

17 And He said to me, “Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose. 18 Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them.”

And so YHVH decided to destroy these people. But first He commanded that a mark be placed on the people who groaned for the abominations and idol worship being done in the land. The Hebrew letter "Tav" was that mark.

Ezekiel 9:4-5
and the Lord said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.”

5 To the others He said in my hearing, “Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity.

Strong's Concordance defines this word "mark" here as follows:

H8420 - Tav: A mark; by implication a signature: desire, mark.

So YHVH marks His people with His signature, His Name. Notice, again, He is not talking to "non-believers" or the heathen, but to His people.

2 Chronicles 7:14-18
IF MY PEOPLE who are called by My name will humble
themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, THEN I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. 16 For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. 17 As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, 18 then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man as ruler in Israel.’

19 “But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, 20 then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

If you’re familiar with the book of Revelation, you will find that this will happen again. YHVH says not to harm anyone with His seal. Notice, these are the twelve tribes of the House of Israel that are sealed.

Revelation 7:1-8
After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. 2 Then 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 granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:
5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;
6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;  
7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;  
8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.  

Revelation 9:3-4  
Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.  
4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Now, back to the two sticks in Ezekiel that will come together as one is YHVH's hand, and how that relates to you and I today.

What are sticks? Sticks are branches. We are called "branches" in Scripture.

John 15:1-8  
"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."
So a branch is a disciple, and disciple means "student." We are to be students of the Word, hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

Israel is referred to as an Olive Tree. Paul is speaking to the nations here, and refers to them as a wild Olive tree, which is to be grafted into this natural Olive tree.

Romans 11:16-27
16 For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, 18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.
19 You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” 20 Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. 22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. 23 And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24 For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?
25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:
“The Deliverer will come out of Zion,
And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;
27 For this is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins.”
What does Paul mean by "blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in?" He said it's a mystery...

WAY back in Genesis Israel (Jacob) blessed Joseph's sons. But Ephraim, the younger of the two, obtained the blessing of the first-born. Pay special attention to what Israel said over Joseph's son Ephraim.

Genesis 48:17-19
17 Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of 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 firstborn; put 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; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.”

The word "multitude" used here is defined in Strong's as:

H4393 - Melo: Fullness, full, multitude

The word "nations" is defined as:

H1471 - Goy: a foreign nation; hence a gentile; also a trop of animals, or a flight of locusts: Gentile, heathen, nation, people.

Do you see the mystery? Ephraim (one of the sticks from Ezekiel 37, representing 10 tribes of the House of Israel) IS the fullness of the Gentiles that Paul is speaking of. This is the prophecy spoken by Jacob in the book of Genesis.

Today we are seeing the great awakening of Ephraim. Christians are beginning to awaken out of their spiritual slumber and seek the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They are wishing to return to YHVH, return to their roots, ...return to their first love.
Revelation 2:4-5
Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

We are also seeing more and more Jews coming to know Yehoshua as the Messiah. Many confuse this revival or awakening with Christians converting to Judaism, or Jews becoming Christians. But in reality, what we are beginning to see are the two sticks coming together as one!

THIS is the unity that our Father desires of us. Not unity and acceptance of the world and worldly things, but unity of His people, unity of His body, the body of Messiah.
Now look down at your divided Bible and close the book by bringing the two sides upward together so the edges meet one another in the middle.
This is a House that is no longer divided. This Book is Whole, it is One, from Genesis to Revelation, from the Beginning to the End.
This House is One, and we must work to prepare this WHOLE house for the Spirit of YHVH to dwell.

Ephesians 2:19-22
19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Matthew 7:21-27
“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.
22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not
prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ 24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”