

of southern Russia earlier than about 100 B.C. When they arrived they found a good many Jews there already. What little we know of their history shows a confused picture of advances and declines until about 600 A.D., when they succeeded in establishing a strong kingdom which was very active in trade and transportation. They could certainly not then be called a barbaric nation, for they were very effective in these rather advanced lines of activity. At about 720 A.D. one of their kings decided to become a Jew, and persuaded many of his nobles to follow his example. The favor that he showed to the Jews led many Jews from other lands to migrate to Khazaria at that period. This king doubtless desired that his whole nation should adopt Judaism, but it appears unlikely that he had any great success, because years later visitors to the leading cities of this region reported that they found there many Mohammedan mosques.

In 1016 the Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire, and the Russians, jointly attacked the kingdom of Khazaria and overcame it. Its people were either destroyed or scattered. There is no evidence that they continued to have a separate existence for any extended length of time. There is no historical basis for attributing any events in Russia in recent years to the Khazars. Such an idea is hardly more sensible than if one were to say that the ancient Amalekites had migrated to America and that all that is evil in America is due to the Amalekites. Like the Amalekites, the Khazars have entirely disappeared or been absorbed.

Aside from the Jews, there is no other instance in history when a nation has been widely scattered and yet has retained its identity. We find Jews in many different countries. It is amazing to note the variety of parts of the world from which groups of Jews have recently migrated to Israel. So it is not at all strange that there should be a large group of Jews in Russia. Whilst some of these may perhaps be the descendants of proselytes from among other peoples, I do not believe it can be proved that any sizeable number had such an origin.

The only ancient people that has preserved its identity to modern days are the Jews, and this was due to the purpose of God. The Bible clearly teaches that there have always been good Jews and wicked Jews. However, God chose them as a nation whom He would give us His Word, and through whom He would bring His Son into the world. Bible prophecy clearly shows that