

"The Jews (and the Church) Are Israel" (Or, Are They?)

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Those who believe, and so state, that the "Jews" are Israel, are the same people who also state that, "the church is Israel." The only way that one can hold to this belief is to deny that Jehovah chose a race of people (seed) for his everlasting "glory." Once this step is taken, then it becomes easy to accept the "Jew," the "Church," anyone, or anything as Israel; because once you depart from the literal Biblical teaching that "seed of Abraham-Isaac, and Jacob" are the "Chosen", it becomes necessary to place the mantle of the "Chosen" elsewhere.

If you subscribe to the Bible teaching that God chose a seed, and not a religion; then it becomes absolutely necessary to separate the "proselyted" "Jews" from the racially chosen Hebrew "Jews". (race)¹ This, the contemporary church does not seem to want to do. It is indeed strange, that most preachers today love to talk about the different meanings in the Greek language for the word "love" etc., and carefully explain how they must be applied to the various scriptures to which they pertain in order to get the proper meaning from these scriptures. Yet they never mention to us the different meanings of the term, "Jew," and with positive assurance use it all inclusively Sunday after Sunday when telling us about every Hebrew from Abraham to Jesus Christ. To do so, is not only unscriptural; it is **outright heretical!**

But folks, Jehovah-God in his infinite wisdom, did pick a seed...a race! The Bible says so in **Genesis 22:17-18;**

"That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of their enemies; and in thy shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

Now, if this seed produced a race of people known as "Hebrews" in the Bible, and they practiced a certain religion; then the mere fact of converting one of another race to this religion, certainly would not make this convert, or proselyte, a member of God's Chosen Race! The Bible tells us this in **Matthew 23:15,**

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

¹ Webster's, 1977: Jew, 1. Originally, a member of the tribe Judah. (race)

2. Later broadened to include anyone living in the country of Judea. (geographical)

3. After the "Dispersion" it came to mean anyone who embraced the religion of Judaism. (religious)

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These are the words of Jesus Christ, and NO CHRISTIAN CAN REFUTE AND STILL CALL HIMSELF A FOLLOWER OF HIS! Here the Master tells us that both the Pharisees and their proselytes were "children of hell." As such, we can know that they could not possibly have been Hebrews because Christ (God in the flesh) did not "chose" "children of hell." We can further know this truth because the Apostle Paul tells us in **Romans 11:26**,

"And so all Israel shall be saved, as it is written, "There shall come out of Zion, a deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." (Israel)

This verse alone should convince on that the Jews are not Israel. Zion is Israel, ie: "out of Israel," will come a "Deliverer," (Jesus Christ) to "turn away ungodliness" from the Israelites-Hebrews-Jacob. Jesus Christ certainly has not "Delivered" many Jews either before, or after, his death on the cross. However, he has had a wonderful influence on several so-called "Gentile" nations who support all of his work and carry out his covenant by "being a blessing to the other nations of the world." They do this because they were chosen by God to do so, and because of this, were given "ears to hear," and "eyes to see." **LISTEN!**

Folks, you should read and study the thirteenth chapter of the book of Matthew, and you will find that Jesus is talking to the "multitudes" and they have pressed upon him so greatly that he commands a boat in order to remove himself from them, and he "spoke many things to them in parables." He ended one such parable with these words, "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Some of his disciples asked him why he spoke in parables, and he told them, in the 11th verse, "because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them (non-chosen) it is not given,"....."SEEING, THEY SEE NOT..HEARING, THEY HEAR NOT..NEITHER DO THEY UNDERSTAND." Jesus told them this was prophesied by Esaisas. He continued speaking to his disciples (Israelites) about these multitudinous "Jews" in the 15th verse. He told them, "for these people's heart is waxed gross, their EARS ARE DULL AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED." Jesus then followed this pronouncement with these authoritative words:

"BUT BLESSED ARE YOUR EYES, FOR THEY SEE: AND YOUR EARS, FOR THEY HEAR."

It is important that you understand that they did not get "ears to hear" after they heard. They were chosen by Jehovah-God from the beginning of time so that, as a race, they would have a proclivity for hearing his Word. If the "CHURCH IS ISRAEL," then these disciples would, of course, have to have been given their "ears to hear" after they received the "good news" from Jesus. Can't you see how ridiculous this teaching is? "The mysteries of the Kingdom of God" will be revealed to you once you start believing Gods Word: that it means what it says and says what it means.

If "Israel" is the Christian Church, ie: "a body of believers in Jesus Christ as Jehovah in the flesh;" then what was the "church" before Christ? Was Moses a member? Elijah?

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How about John the Baptist? They were all Israelites; but I cannot find a scripture which records them as having been a member of a "local church," or a "Jew," for that matter! If Israel is the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as were all descendents of Jacob's twelve sons, who lived some two thousand years before Christ, how did Israel cease being a seed (race of people) and become a "church?" Where in the word of God is it changed? Where does it state that God changed his mind, and that "everlasting," "never," "always," and "forever," do not mean in perpetuity? Ad infinitum? At what point in God's scheme of things did they become, "perhaps," "maybe," "may," "sometimes," "occasionally," etc.?

Well folks, you are simply going to have to find these words somewhere in the scriptures; because in my K.J.V. Jehovah said in **I Kings 2:33**,

" Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed forever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace forever from the Lord."

This certainly proves the Lord to be sovereign, and can confer upon a race of people whom he created, problems or peace. It is his decision alone and not man's business at all. Listen what our Father is telling us in **Ezekiel 20:5**,

"...and say unto them, This sayeth the Lord God; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, 'I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD'."

Do you need more proof that Jehovah-God can choose, and in fact did choose, Jacob (Israel) and his seed and made the covenant mentioned in the above scripture, which lasts forever, and that there is no mention of the "Jews," or the "church" as being Israel? Absolutely all of the covenants made by Jehovah-God to the "seed of Israel" would have to have been rescinded by God for the "church" to be Israel; because the "church" is not "seed," LISTEN:

1. We know that Twelve Tribes of Israel (Jacob) constituted a seed, or a race of people with certain racial characteristics; and that this was God's doing, and his choice.
2. We know that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, and other chosen Hebrews in the Bible had a form of religion. The Bible tells us this is so.
3. We know that they had temples, tents, etc. and that they also worshiped on mountaintops.
4. We know that these early Hebrews made converts to their religion as the Bible tells us that many King David's guards and soldiers were converts to Jehovah, and in the book of Esther it states that "many of the people of the land (Persia) converted to their religion (Judaism) for fear of the Jews."
5. We know that the "Twelve Tribes of Israel," (Hebrews) were being continually purged by God of their "strange wives."

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From Abraham on down to the last of the Prophets, some 400 years B.C., we find the Hebrews purging themselves of strange wives and children in order to please their God, Jehovah! Here are but a few of such scriptures recording this abominable transgression against God.

Nehemiah 13:25-27, (425 B.C.):

“And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves. Did not Solomon, King of Israel, sin by these things?..... Shall we then hearken unto you all of this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?”

We can see here that it is a transgression against God, and an evil sin to marry strange wives. A strange wife in this instance, was a non-Israelite; or a person not of the seed of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. In other words, a different race, (not nationality) of people than what they were. In the 28th chapter of **Genesis** we find Isaac instructing his son, Jacob on where to find a wife:

Verse 1-2:

“And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.* Arise, go to Pa’dan-a’ram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother’s father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban**thy mother’s brother.”

We know that Jehovah-God carefully selected Abraham, carefully selected his wife Sarah causing her to become pregnant with Isaac, carefully selected Rebekah his wife; carefully chose their twin son, Jacob, and as we have just seen, carefully selected his wife Rachel. From this union, God gave them twelve sons, changed Jacob’s name to Israel, and from these twelve children of Israel’s descended there race of Hebrews known as Israelites. No, God did not pick a church, nor did he pick a non-descript tribe of people.

The Prophet Erza in the 5th century B.C., some 1500 years later than the above account of how God selected Jacob’s wife, records the following:

Erza 10:1-3,

- 1 “Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore.
- 2 And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.

3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law."

If the Jews are not Hebrews, and subsequently not the "CHOSEN", how then, could our salvation possibly come from them? This is both a proper and sincere question which was asked by a Christian who has become interested in this work on the Hebrews and the Jews. On the surface it seems to contradict the thesis that the Jew is not the Hebrew of the bible, and it certainly seems to be incongruous with the idea that a Christian's salvation could possibly come from a race of people, who do not believe in Jesus Christ and as such have no salvation for themselves. Yet in **John 4:22** we are told, "YE WORSHIP YE KNOW NOT WHAT; WE KNOW WHAT WE WORSHIP: FOR SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS." Jesus made this statement when he was talking to the Samaritan woman at the well.

A simple study of several scriptures plus a clear definition of what the term "JEW" originally meant should clear the problem of what seems to be a contradiction; but certainly is not! Of course, establishment preachers find no problem with this scripture at all! They simply say that "Jesus was Jew, and He is our salvation; hence salvation is of the Jews." This works well for them since they don't correlate this scripture with the many scriptures throughout the New Testament dealing with this subject, and they completely omit the statement of Jesus that "we know what we worship." Obviously, Jesus included himself in the term, "we" since He spoke it. Now Jesus was God in the flesh, and therefore knew everything, and everyone from the foundations of the earth. Therefore he knew the "Jews". Listen what Jesus (God) said to them in the eighth chapter of the book of **John: (verse 47)**,

"He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

Now if Jesus was a Jew, as most preachers of his gospel claim, then when he used the term "we" above, he would be speaking of the Jews. He would be indicating that "we (the Jews) know what we worship," and since they obviously did not worship him, this statement would not make any sense at all. Jesus would in fact be saying, "we know what we worship...and it is not me."

But a still greater truth is taught in this scripture, and it too is completely lost by most of today's preachers. Jesus Christ (God in the flesh) stated to the Jews that ".....ye are not of God." Since Jesus (God in flesh) knew that the Jews were not of Him....HOW THEN, COULD THEY BE THE CHOSEN OF HIM?"

At the time that Jesus made the statement, "Salvation is of the Jews," to the "woman at the well," the term "Jew" had only two **meanings**.²

² After the "Diaspora", the dispersion of the "Jews" in 70 A.D., the term "Jew" came to mean anyone who embraced the religion of Judaism.

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1. A person who was a member of the tribe of Judah. (Hebrew-Chosen)
2. A person who lived in the Kingdom of Judah, or Judea.

Since Jesus lived both in Nazareth, and Capernaum all of his adult life- cities or villages located in Galilee, not Judea- the definition of the term "Jew" given in #2 above would not have applied to him. The definition given in #1 above would, however, since Christ was of the tribe of Judah (Hebrews-Chosen) and it was to this tribe that the term "Jew" was originally given. However, it would be totally incorrect to say that, "Salvation is of the Jews," and mean the definition of the term "Jew" today, ie: any person embracing Judaism as a religion.³ To use the contemporary meaning of the term "Jew" in the context of this scripture, one would be saying that "salvation was of Judaism," and of course, this makes less sense than that "of the Jews."

PSALMS 68:20: "He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God, the Lord, belong the issues from death."

First, this shows unquestionably that the Lord is God, and that God is the Lord! Secondly, it shows plainly that the Lord is the God of salvation. Also, it shows that "He is our God," and of course "our" means the Hebrews since there were absolutely no Jews when King David wrote the Psalms.

LUKE 1:69: "And has raised a horn of salvation for us in the house of his Servant, David."

The House of David, of course, is the tribe of Judah which was one of the original twelve tribes of Israel. There are the Hebrews, not the Jews. The "Horn of salvation" refers to Christ Jesus, who gave himself up to the cross for the propitiation of our sins...thus our salvation! Therefore, our salvation comes through Christ, and him only. Since Jesus Christ was of the tribe of Judah, (Yehudah) he could not technically be called a "Jew" since this term is a translation of the Latin "Judaeus," which meant "**AN INHABITANT OF JUDEA.**" As we can see, then, the term "Jew" has never properly carried a racial meaning to it whatever! During Jesus' lifetime, (prior to the term "Jew") he was properly called a "Galilean" in the Bible, because he was from the country of Galilee. (**Luke 23:6**) He was properly called a "Nazarene" (**Matthew 2:23**) because he lived in the city of Nazareth. And he was properly called a Yehudi because he was of the tribe of Yehudah. (**Hebrew for Judah**)

Jesus Christ cannot properly be called a "Jew" today under any circumstances, since the term has been enlarged to include everyone who embraces the religion of Judaism,

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“the religion of the Jews.” **THEREFORE THE CORRECT TRANSLATION OF THIS SCRIPTURE SHOULD HAVE BEEN:**

“Ye worship ye know not what; we (Hebrews) know what we worship: for **SALVATION IS OF THE HEBREWS.**”

To sum it all up, one can truthfully and correctly say that Jesus Christ is Lord, and as our Lord and Saviour, certainly knew from whence our Salvation came. Since he was a Hebrew of the tribe of Yehudah (Judah) and was not a “Jew” and never referred to himself as being one, he knew that our salvation would never come from the “Jews.” Since the Son and the Father is one, Jesus certainly knew that he would be our salvation and that he would be born of the seed of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and his son, Judah, (Yehudah) and that Judaism, “the religion of the Jews’ would have absolutely nothing, whatever, to do with our salvation.