

# "PROOFS OF ISRAEL - VIII"

## "Paul Became As A Jew"

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### I CORINTHIANS 9:20:

*"and to the Jews, I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews."*

The Apostle Paul sent this letter to the church at Corinth - the Corinthian Church, or Corinthian people; and he is telling them how he witnesses to the "JEWS." This scripture is important to the "ISRAEL message in that it tells us that Paul is not a "JEW." In other words, in order to attempt to win them over for CHRIST, he "*became as a Jew,*" or appeared to be a Jew; but of course, he was NOT ONE!

In order to "rightly divide" this scripture, it behooves us to fully understand the meaning of the term JEW at the time this scripture was written in circa, 40-60 A.D.

The term Jew had a double meaning at this time:

1. It meant anyone who lived in JUDEA.
2. It also meant anyone who embraced the religion of JUDAISM!

In considering #1 above, "a citizen of Judea," we know that Paul visited the City of Jerusalem from time to time; but he was born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia. As a missionary he resided in the city of Antioch, Syria (more about this later). The Apostle Paul was on the road to DAMASCUS, SYRIA when he was struck down by the power of our LORD - had a short visit with Him, and became a follower of CHRIST from that time on.

Since Paul only went to Judea, or Jerusalem, for short periods of time for missionary endeavors, it would seem unfair to say that the Apostle was a "JEW" by the resident definition. Especially so, since we find in the book "[Biblical History, and Geography,](#)" by [Charles Foster Kent, Ph.D., published in 1911, N. Y., on pp. #268,](#) that he resided in ANTIOCH, SYRIA, the third largest city in the Roman Empire, "a natural geographical center, from which to set out on his missionary journeys."

Secondly, Paul WAS CONSIDERED A "JEW" when he embraced "JUDAISM, THE RELIGION OF THE JEWS"; but he was converted to CHRISTIANITY on the road to DAMASCUS. Of course, after his conversion he was a CHRISTIAN, also a religion, and was

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no longer considered "a person who embraced JUDAISM," AND SUBSEQUENTLY . . . NOT A JEW! This fact explains why PAUL, who was once a JEW, BUT NOW A CHRISTIAN, made the statement which we considered earlier that, "to the JEWS, (he) became as a JEW."

To conclude this exercise, we will settle this argument by believing what this great "APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES" had to say for himself on this same subject. We can find it in:

### ROMANS 11:1

*"I say then, hath GOD cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an ISRAELITE of the seed of ABRAHAM, of the tribe of BENJAMIN."*

Now folks, the Apostle Paul certainly had the term "JEW" in his vocabulary if he chose to use it. We know this, because he used it in the previously quoted scripture, wherein he remarked "and to the JEWS, I became as a JEW."

So Paul had the term "JEW" in his vocabulary, along with the term "ISRAEL", or "ISRAELITE," "HEBREW," and other nomenclatures! However, he properly used the term "ISRAELITE," which, of course, identified him as one whose genealogy goes back to JACOB-ISRAEL, and then he told us the exact tribe of ISRAEL to which he belonged, which was the TRIBE OF BENJAMIN. Therefore, by "rightly dividing" these two great scriptures, ROMANS 11:1 and I CORINTHIANS 9:20, we learn that both the JEWS, and the "CORPORATE CHURCH" are totally wrong in calling the APOSTLE PAUL, A JEW!

To learn that the "JEWS" are not ISRAEL, is part of the process of learning who ISRAEL really is, because as long as the church continues to teach the HERESY THAT THE JEWS ARE GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE, WHEN NOWHERE IN SCRIPTURE, (K.J.V.) DOES IT SAY SO, THEIR PASTORS WILL COME UNDER JEHOVAH-GOD'S CONDEMNATION FOUND IN [II JOHN, VERSES 7-11](#).