

**HOPE OF
ISRAEL
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



Judeans Being Deported to Assyria after the Defeat of Lachish

The Correct Meaning of Names

Lesson 2

An Open Letter from the Staff...

Much confusion exists within Christian circles today due largely to the misuse and misunderstanding of the terms Hebrew, Israelite and Jew.

Much of the confusion arises because the nation of Israel was split into two separate kingdoms under the rule of Rehoboam and Jeroboam -- see I Kings 11 and 12.

As a result, care must be taken to determine the intended meaning of these terms according to the overall CONTEXT within which they are used in the Bible. For example, the terms Jew and Judean are not equivalent -- or even closely related. Yet many treat them as such. Some say the Judeans were Israelites, others say that part of them were Israelites, and still others claim none of them were Israelites! They can't all be right!

Another problem causing this confusion and misunderstanding is the fact of inconsistencies in the translation of the Bible -- a problem that must be identified and corrected if an accurate understanding of these terms is to be attained.

Another key to this problem is the fact that the people known as "Jews" today do not constitute a single race, but are a multi-ethnic people -- many of which are products of considerable racial mixing. While there are some who can trace their ancestry to Israel's son Judah, and thereby justify their racial name "Jew" as understood today, many are a result of mixing with a group known as the Khazars. Others, such as the Ethiopian "Jews" have, of course, a heavy mixing with black African descendants of Ham.

In this lesson we will closely analyze the names "Hebrew," "Israel(ite)" and "Jew" to clarify their meanings as found in the Bible. We trust you will find this a highly rewarding experience.



HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 2

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About Our Cover...

The Assyrians deported thousands of captives after their defeat of the Judeans in 700 B.C. This frieze shows a group of men, women and children leaving Lachish after it was sacked and burned.

The Correct Meaning of Names

LESSON 2

Hebrew

According to *Strong's Concordance* the word "Hebrew," as found in the Old Testament, comes from the Hebrew word **Ibriy** (#5680) which refers to "an Eberite or descendant of Eber."

1. **Genesis chapter 10** tells us that Eber was a descendant of Shem who was one of Noah's sons. The word "Hebrew" (Eberite) is a FAMILY name: the family or DESCENDANTS of Eber.

2. Read **Genesis 39**. Who is the Hebrew mentioned in **verses 14 and 17**?

3. Read **Exodus chapter 1**. The midwives mentioned in **verses 15, 16 and 19** were from what nation of people? (See **verse 13**).

COMMENT: The first place the word "Hebrew" is used in the Old Testament (King James Version) is **Genesis 14:13**. This verse tells us that Abram (later called Abraham) was a Hebrew, meaning that he was of the family of Eber. Thus, any descendant of Abraham could ACCURATELY be called a Hebrew. Were Isaac, Jacob and Esau Hebrews? Yes, because all three were descendants of Abraham and thus belong to the family of Eber. Were Shem, Noah and Adam Hebrews? NO, because all three lived BEFORE Eber was born

By definition, the word "Hebrew" can be traced back to Eber -- AND NO FURTHER! Eber was **the first Hebrew**, contrary to what some people say.

Israelite

The Hebrew word Yisrael from which the word "Israel" is translated comes from two other Hebrew words: **sarah** (*Strong's*

Concordance #8280-82), meaning "prince" or "princess," (see root #8269 -- ruler) and **el** (#410), meaning "mighty one; God." The Hebrew word **el** is used in many places as part of the various names given to YEHOUAH God. Thus, Yisrael means "YEHOUAH is our Prince" or "ruled by YEHOUAH." *Genenius' Hebrew-Chaldean Lexicon* defines the Hebrew word **Yisrael**: "soldier of God." This name was given to Jacob, after he wrestled with and prevailed over a "man," inferring that YEHOUAH God was with Jacob

1. Read **Genesis 32:24-30**.

COMMENT: In verse 30 we read that Jacob named the place of this struggle "Peniel" (#6439) which in the Hebrew means "face of God."

2. In **Genesis 35:10** YEHOUAH God confirmed the changing of Jacob's name to Israel.

COMMENT: Israel is a FAMILY name: the family or DESCENDANTS of Jacob. The first time we find this word used in the Old Testament (King James Version) is **Genesis 32:28** which tells us that Jacob's name was changed to "Israel." (See also **Genesis 35:10**). The twelve sons of Jacob and their descendants became known as "Israelites" (also the "children of Israel"), and together they formed the nation of Israel.

3. In **Romans 9:3-4**, who did the apostle Paul say were his brethren and kinsmen according to the flesh?

4. In **Romans 11:1**, what did Paul call himself? And what tribe did he belong to?

5. What man calls himself both an Israelite AND a Hebrew in **Philippians 3:5**?

6. According to **John 1:47**, who did Yeshua the Messiah say was an Israelite?

7. Now read **Joshua 3**. In **verse 17**, what people did Joshua lead across the Jordan River?

8. According to **I Kings 12:23**,

Rehoboam was king of what people? In **verse 21**, who did he prepare to fight against? In this context, who does “Israel” refer to?

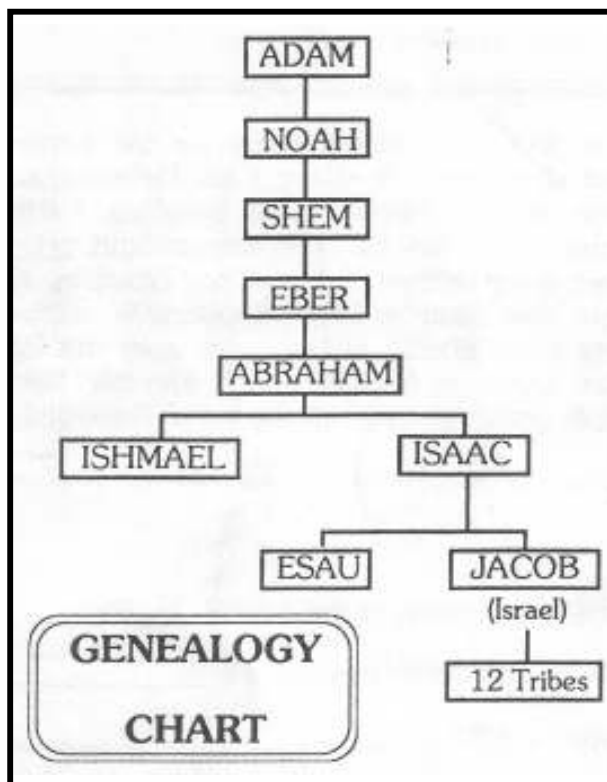
COMMENT: By definition, the terms “Israel” and “Israelite” BEGIN with Jacob and continue from that point. These terms did not exist PRIOR to Jacob’s name change. As a result, could Adam, Noah, Shem, Eber, Abraham, Isaac and Esau have been Israelites? NO, of course not -- for none of them were Jacob’s descendants! Yet, to this day, some people erroneously refer to these men as “Israelites.”

On the other hand, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, the Old Testament prophets, Yeshua and his apostles were ALL “Israelites” because they were descendants of Jacob. In fact, many multitudes of peoples today are Israelites due to their physical descent from the various tribes or sons of Jacob Israel.

9. Read now I Kings 11 and 12.

COMMENT: The terms “Israel and “Israelite” can also, in a NARROWER sense, refer to the northern ten-tribed kingdom of Israel as opposed to the southern kingdom of Judah. The nation of Israel was split into two separate kingdoms under Rehoboam and Jeroboam. Therefore, care must be taken to determine the INTENDED meaning of these terms according to the overall CONTEXT within which they are used. “Israel” can refer to *all twelve tribes* or just to *the northern ten tribes* -- depending on the CONTEXT.

At this point in our study we can conclude that ALL Israelites by DESCENT are Hebrews; however, NOT all Hebrews are Israelites. Furthermore, Adam and all of his descendants PRIOR to Eber were neither Hebrews nor Israelites. Also note that Esau and his descendants, although they could qualify as Hebrews, were NOT Israelites. Only his brother Jacob and his descendants could RIGHTLY claim the name “Israel(ite).”



Semite

At this point in our study we should examine a word that does not appear in the Bible but is directly related to people mentioned in the Scriptures. This word has been greatly misused and twisted from its original meaning, causing much confusion and turmoil. This word is “Semite” from which come the terms “semitic,” “semitism” and the grossly misapplied “anti-semitism.” Let us briefly examine the origin and correct meaning of this beleaguered word.

Webster’s Dictionary tells us that the word “Semite” (Shemite) comes from the Greek word **Sem** and the Hebrew word **Shem** and refers to Noah’s son SHEM and his DESCENDANTS. Any direct descendant of Shem, then, would qualify as a “Semite” by definition.

1. Shem is first mentioned in the Bible in **Genesis 5:32** as part of Adam’s family record.

2. **Genesis chapter 10** gives us Noah’s

family record with Shem's descendants identified in **verses 21-31**.

COMMENT: Notice in **verse 21** that Shem is called "the father of all the children of Eber." **Verse 24** verifies that Eber was a direct descendant of Shem. We have already established the fact that Eber was the progenitor of the Hebrews. This proves that all Hebrews were Semites along with the rest of Shem's descendants.

Biblical and other historical evidence indicates that Shem was thus the progenitor of the Semitic peoples: the Phoenicians, the Assyrians, the early Chaldeans, the Babylonians, the Hebrews, the Arabs and the Israelites among others. All these peoples share a COMMON ANCESTOR in Shem and by definition are Semites -- contrary to popular opinion today!

3. Looking in *Strong's Concordance*, how many times are the words "semite," "semitism" and "anti-semitism" listed?

4. How many times are these words used in the King James Bible?

5. Which of the following are, by definition, "Semites": Esau, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Shem, Ishmael, Isaac, Adam, Eber?

COMMENT: Based on the definition of "Semite," the term "anti-Semitism" SHOULD logically mean "against, or opposed, to Semites." Interestingly enough, however, modern dictionaries and modern use define this term as having or showing prejudice, discrimination or dislike against Jews and Jewish things as if THEY ALONE represent the Semites! (More on this later in this lesson). It is a FACT that the terms "anti-Semitic" and "anti-Semitism" do NOT appear in *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* -- apparently this epithet didn't exist at that time.

Another interesting FACT is that neither the *Webster's 1828* edition nor the 1949 edition include the word "Jew" in their definitions. However, the later *New World* edition and virtually all recent editions make SPECIFIC mention of the term "Jew" in the definitions of

"Semite," "Semitic" or "Semitism." The ERRONEOUS implication is that these terms EQUATE to "a Jew" or "the Jews" at the EXCLUSION of some or all of the other TRUE Semitic peoples. (Later in this lesson we will examine the term "Jew" in more detail).

Jew

Now that we have a clear understanding of the terms "Hebrew," "Israelite" and "Semite" we can proceed to yet another term which has caused untold confusion within Christendom and led to misunderstanding of Scripture. That term is "Jew."

It means different things to different people. Some say "Jew" means Hebrew; some say it means Israelite; some say it means Semite. Adam has been called the first Jew as have Cain, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, David and others. The word "Jew" has been used as a racial term; other times it has been used for nationality. Some have defined it as strictly a religious term -- any adherent to the religion of Judaism. Logically, all of these definitions and usages can't be right!

Old Testament Usage:

1. In **II Kings 16:6**, in the King James Bible, the first occurrence of the word "Jews" is to be found.

COMMENT: The word is translated from the Hebrew word **Yehuwdiy** (#3064 in *Strong's Concordance*), meaning "a Jehudite (i.e. Judaite)" or "descendant of Jehudah (Judah)." *The Englishman's Hebrew-Chaldee Concordance of the Old Testament* describes this word as "men of Judah," while *Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament* defines it as "one who belonged to the kingdom of Judah." *Strong's Concordance* indicates that this Hebrew word comes from the word **Yehuwdah** (#3063), meaning "Jehudah (or Judah)."

Webster's New Twentieth Century

Dictionary tells us that the word “Jew” comes from the Hebrew word **Yehudah**, meaning “Judah.” *Smith’s Bible Dictionary* states that after the split of the Israel nation, the southern kingdom (known as the kingdom of Judah) consisted of the tribe of Judah plus the larger part of Benjamin. *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* defines the word “Jew” as “a contraction of Judas or Judah.”

2. Read **II Kings 16:1-6**.

3. According to **II Kings 15:27**, Pekah began to reign as king of what kingdom?

4. **II Kings 16:1** tells us that Ahaz began to reign as king of what kingdom?

5. King Pekah joined King Rezin of Syria to war against and besiege what people? (**Verse 5**).

6. **Verse 6** tells us that King Rezin drove the “Jews” from Elath. Based on who King Rezin was at war with and the definitions given above, who do you think these people called “Jews” were?

7. What would have been a more accurate translation instead of “Jews”?

8. Read now **Ezra 4:12 and 23**, and **Ezra 5:1 and 5**. This is the next place in the Bible where the word “Jews” appears.

COMMENT: The Hebrew word from which it was translated in each case is **Yehuwdaiy** (*Strong’s* #3062), meaning “Jehudaite (or Judaite).” This word comes from **Yehuwd** (*Strong’s* #3061), meaning “Judah, hence Judea” and corresponds to #3063 (mentioned above). Note that the connection between the terms “Judah” and “Judea.”

The word “Judea” found in **Ezra 5:8** is translated from the Hebrew word **Yehuwd** (#3061), meaning “Judah.” The word “Judah” in **Ezra 5:1** is translated from this same Hebrew word. This indicates that “Judea” and “Judah” refer to the SAME LAND OR AREA.

9. Read **Ezra 1-5**.

10. **Ezra 1:1-3** explains how Cyrus, King of Persia, proclaimed the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. According to **verses 2 and 3**, where does it say Jerusalem is located?

COMMENT: This shows that the area known as “Judah” still existed AFTER the time of the captivity.

11. In **Ezra 1:5** what people were moved to return to Jerusalem to do the rebuilding?

COMMENT: Chapter 2 of **Ezra** gives the names of those in captivity who returned to Jerusalem in Judah.

12. In **Ezra 4:12** the letter sent by the adversaries to the king of Persia called these rebuilders “Jews.” What name would have more accurately described these people?

13. **Ezra 5:1** tells us that the prophets Haggai and Zechariah prophesied to people in Judah and Jerusalem. The translators called them “Jews” -- who were these people? (**Verse 2**).

14. **Ezra 5:8** further identifies the area of the rebuilding by calling it what province?

COMMENT: This indicates that the area known as “Judah” was ALSO called “Judea.”

15. **Daniel chapter 3** is another place where the word “Jews” can be found.

COMMENT: This is the story of how the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to be cast into the fiery furnace for violating his decree to worship the golden image. These three men are called “Jews” by the translators in **verse 12**. It is translated from the Hebrew word **Yehuwdiy** (*Strong’s* #3064) which we defined earlier.

16. Read **Daniel 1-3**.

17. **Daniel 1:1-2**. What people did King Nebuchadnezzar carry away captive into Babylon?

18. **Daniel 1:6-7**. To what people did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego belong?

19. **Daniel 3:12**. Rather than “Jews,” what should these men have been called?

COMMENT: It appears that the Hebrew words that were translated into the English word “Jew” referred to the area known as “Judah” (Judea) and to the people from those areas (Judahites or Judeans). Therefore, the

terms were primarily GEOGRAPHICAL in nature. Evidently, the terms were carried over into the Babylonian captivity and also used AFTER the remnant returned to rebuild the Temple at Jerusalem. The terms “Judea” (Judah) and “Judean” (Judahite) were also commonly used during New Testament times as we will soon see.

After the split of the nation of Israel, the NORTHERN KINGDOM of Israel occupied the area known as “Samaria” and had the city of Samaria as its capital. The SOUTHERN KINGDOM of Judah occupied the area known as “Judea” and had the city of Jerusalem as its capital. The terms “Samaritan” (Israelite) and “Judean” (Judahite) were terms used to refer to the inhabitants of these two areas.

We shall now turn our attention to the use of the word “Jew(s)” as found in the New Testament.

New Testament Usage:

In the New Testament the word “Jew(s)” is translated from the Greek word **Ioudaios** (#2453 in *Strong’s Concordance*), meaning “Judean, i.e. Belonging to Jehudah.” It comes from the Greek word **Iouda** (*Strong’s* #2448), meaning “Judah” which originates from the Hebrew word **Yehuwdah** (*Strong’s* #3063), meaning “Jehudah (or Judah)” as discussed earlier.

Webster’s New Twentieth Century Dictionary tells us that the word “Jew” comes from the Greek words **Ioudaios**, meaning “an inhabitant of Judea” and **Ioudaia**, meaning “Judea.”

COMMENT: This Greek word **Ioudaios** appears to be a GEOGRAPHICAL term indicating area of residence (the area known as “Judea”). Thus, those residing within Judea were known as “Judeans;” in the same manner those from Galilee were called “Galileans,” residents of Samaria were “Samaritans,” etc.

The word “Galilean” is translated from

the Greek word **Galilaios** (*Strong’s* #1057), meaning “belonging to Galilee.” The word “Samaritan” is translated from the Greek word **Samareites** (#4541), meaning “inhabitant of Samaria.” BOTH terms are GEOGRAPHICAL in nature. In like manner, the word “Jew” SHOULD HAVE been translated “Judean” since it refers to an INHABITANT OF JUDEA.

1. Read **Matthew 4:12-22**. Where was Peter living at the time Yeshua selected him as a disciple?

2. What was Peter called in **Mark 14:70** and **Luke 22:59**?

3. Read **Acts 2**. At the day of Pentecost, what were the disciples called (**verse 7**)?

4. In **verse 14**, what did Peter call these men who were mocking the disciples?

COMMENT: The word “Judea” is CORRECTLY translated from the Greek word **Ioudaios**, *Strong’s* #2453, and means “Judeans.” However, in **verse 5** and most other places the translators INCORRECTLY TRANSLATED this same Greek word as “Jews.”

5. Read **John 4:3-42**. What three districts or provinces are mentioned in verses 3-4?

6. The woman at Jacob’s well was a resident of which district or province (**verse 7**)?

7. In **verses 9, 39 and 40**, what term was applied to this woman and the people of her city?

8. The last part of **verse 9** describes the relationship between the people of two areas or districts: the people of Samaria (Samaritans) and people the translators INCORRECTLY called “Jews.” Who do you suppose these people were and where did they reside?

COMMENT: We have already seen that in Old Testament times the land of Judah was also known as Judea. In the New Testament the word “Judea” is translated from the Greek word **Ioudaia** (*Strong’s* #2449), meaning “the Judean land” which comes from the Greek word **Ioudaios** (#2453) as defined above. Residents of this area would logically be called “Judeans,” and this is the word the translators SHOULD

HAVE USED rather than “Jews.”

As a note of interest, a bitter rivalry and hatred existed between the Samaritans and the Judeans. This hostility was based, in part, on the feud between them concerning which temple was superior: the Samaritan temple on Mount Gerizim or the Judean TEMPLE at Jerusalem (**John 4:20** centers on this disagreement). The intense animosity between these two peoples is what **verse 9** refers to. The Samaritan woman MISTAKENLY assumed that Yeshua was from Judea and thus a Judean. The words “Jew” and “Jews” in **verse 9** should have been CORRECTLY RENDERED “Judean” and “Judeans.” Both words are translated from the Greek word **Ioudaios** (*Strong’s* #2453), referring to the land of Judea and its people (Judeans).

Was Yeshua the Messiah a “Judean”?

Now we come to a very important question and a point that has consistently caused much confusion throughout the Christian world due to INCORRECT TRANSLATION and WORD MANIPULATION. Prevailing Judeo-Christian thought today is that Yeshua the Messiah was a Jew, as were his parents and their ancestors. We have already seen that the name “Jew” should have been translated “Judean.” Let’s get to the bottom of this issue by examining what the Bible has to say.

The area of Judea at the time of the Messiah was under Roman military occupation and was populated by a MIXTURE of people. They were ALL Judeans by RESIDENCE, although they represented VARIOUS ANCESTRIES. Israelites represented only PART of the inhabitants.

1. Read **Micah 5:2**. Where was the Messiah born?

COMMENT: This verse states that Bethlehem is in the land of JUDAH. Other verses mention that Bethlehem is in JUDEA. This is further evidence that Old Testament Judah and Judea of the New Testament refer to

the SAME AREA.

2. Where does **Mark 1:9** say that Yeshua came from (indicating his residence)?

3. Why were they in Bethlehem of Judea at the time Yeshua was born?

COMMENT: Yeshua was born to parents who resided in GALILEE, making ALL THREE of them Galileans. The fact that Yeshua was born while his parents were visiting in Judea doesn’t change that and make them Judeans.

4. Where does **Mark 1:14** say Yeshua began his ministry after his baptism by John? Notice also **verses 38 and 39**. Also see **Matthew 4:12-17** and **Luke 4:14-15**.

5. Where does **Mark 1:16-20** say Yeshua found Simon (Peter), Andrew, James and John?

6. Where did Yeshua’s fame spread after he started his ministry? (**Verse 28**).

7. According to **Mark 3:7-8**, where did the multitudes go to find the Messiah?

COMMENT: Note the different areas from which they came to see and hear him.

8. According to **John 2:1-11**, where did Yeshua’s first miracle of turning the water into wine take place?

9. In **Luke 23:5** Yeshua’s accusers told Pilate that Yeshua began his teaching in what area?

COMMENT: The word “Jewry” in **verse 5** is translated from the Greek word **Ioudaia**, *Strong’s* #2449, meaning the land of JUDEA. This word was, for the most part, translated correctly as “Judea.” Here, and in **John 7:1**, however, are the only two places in the entire New Testament where the word “Jewry” was INCORRECTLY used.

10. In **Luke 23:6-7**, who did Pilate discover Yeshua was?

COMMENT: Galilee, at this time, was under the rule of Herod Antipas who happened to be in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Yeshua, being a GALILEAN, thus came under Herod’s jurisdiction.

It is obvious from the Bible that Yeshua the Messiah was a GALILEAN -- NOT a

Judean! His disciples were also Galileans (Acts 1:11). Galilee was the scene of the greater part of Yeshua's private life and public acts. Where, then, does the ERRONEOUS IDEA come from that the Messiah was a "Jew"? We will now conclude this lesson by examining the ORIGIN and MODERN USES of this MISAPPLIED word "Jew."

Modern Origin and Usage of the Word "Jew"

The word "Jew" is a relatively MODERN word. In fact, it was NOT in existence until more than 1,000 years AFTER the time of the Messiah. The word "Jew" was coined long after the Scriptures were written and CANNOT be found in early Christian writings.

Writes Benjamin H. Freedman in the book *Facts Are Facts*: "When the word 'Jew' was first introduced into the English language in the 18th century, its one and only implication, inference and innuendo was 'JUDEAN.' However, during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries a well-organized and well-financed international 'pressure group' created a so-called 'secondary meaning' for the word 'Jew' among the English-speaking peoples of the world. This so-called 'secondary meaning' for the word 'Jew' bears no relation whatsoever to the 18th century original connotation of the word 'Jew.' It is a MISREPRESENTATION" (page 20).

In addition, when the word "Jew" was first used in early English writings the intended meaning was "JUDEAN." Since then "secondary meanings" have been created and used so extensively that very few people in the whole English-speaking world today are aware of the original use of the word. The original meaning of the word "Jew" has been virtually HIDDEN and REPLACED with IN-ACCURATE and MISLEADING definitions.

A look at modern dictionary definitions reveal how the secondary meanings have REPLACED or "blacked out" the original and CORRECT meaning of the word "Jew." Notice!

Webster's 1828 Dictionary: "A Hebrew or Israelite."

Webster's Twentieth Century Dictionary (1939): "A Hebrew or Israelite; any descendant of Jacob."

Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary (1965): 1. A worshiper of God who follows the Mosaic law and ritual. 2. A member of the Hebraic division of the Semitic race; a descendant of Abraham through Sarah in the line of Jacob."

Webster's New World Dictionary (1966): "Citizen or subject of the tribe or kingdom of Judah. 1. A person descended, or regarded as descended, from the ancient Hebrews of Biblical times. 2. A person whose religion is Judaism."

The Reader's Digest Great Encyclopedic Dictionary (1968): "1. A member or descendant of the Hebrew people. 2. Any person professing Judaism. 3. Originally, a member of the tribe or the kingdom of Judah."

The American Heritage Dictionary (1976): "1. An adherent of Judaism. 2. A descendant of the Hebrew people."

Random House Dictionary (1987): "1. One of the scattered group of people that traces its descent from the Biblical Hebrews; Israelite. 2. A person whose religion is Judaism. 3. A subject of the ancient kingdom of Judah."

COMMENT: Let's examine more closely these CREATED "SECONDARY MEANINGS" and see how they have been used to DISTORT and MISREPRESENT the truth. Modern usage of the word "Jew" can be categorized into FIVE general meanings:

1. A person descended from the Biblical Hebrews and/or Israelites. We have already examined the meanings of "Hebrew" and "Israelite." These two groups of people existed LONG BEFORE the word "Jew" was coined. Furthermore, much evidence exists proving that a vast majority of the people called "Jews" today cannot legitimately claim Hebrew or Israelite ancestry. Therefore, it is totally illogical to say that "Jew" is synonymous to

“Hebrew” or “Israelite.”

2. A person descended from the Biblical tribe of Judah. As noted above, most so-called Jews today are NOT of Israelite ancestry and thus could NOT have descended from Judah. We have also seen that the Hebrew word translated “Jew” in the Old Testament should have been CORRECTLY rendered “**Judahite**” or “**men of Judah.**” It is simply a MISREPRESENTATION to equate “Jew” with a descendant of Judah.

3. A Semite. A large majority of so-called “Jews” today are descendants of a non-semitic people known as “Khazars” and CANNOT be classified as “Semitic.”

4. A descendant of the people inhabiting Palestine at the time of the Messiah. Most so-called “Jews” today CANNOT trace their ancestry back to these people. In addition, the term “Jew” did NOT exist at that time! We have already seen that the Greek word translated as “Jew(s)” in the New Testament should have been CORRECTLY rendered “**Judean.**”

5. A person whose religion is Judaism. Of the meanings listed, this appears to be the ONLY ONE with any validity today. Some so-called Jews claim they do not actively practice the religion; however, Judaism is MORE than just an organized religion. It encompasses a PHILOSOPHY or WAY OF LIFE with many customs and traditions. Contrary to popular opinion, Judaism centers around the TALMUD -- rather than the Law of Moses. And true Christianity has NO ROOTS in Judaism as the two are DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED in law and spirit. Judaism can be traced back to BABYLON and grew out of the “traditions of the elders” (Phariseeism) practiced by the Judeans of the Messiah’s day. Yeshua clearly condemned these religious practices. However, the term “Judaism” is of RECENT ORIGIN and was unknown to the Judeans.

1. Were Abraham, Isaac and Jacob Semites?

2. Are the majority of the people called

“Jews” today Semites?

3. Did true Christianity develop out of Judaism?

4. Can the majority of the people who call themselves “Jewish” trace their lineage back to Judah?

COMMENT: Contrary to popular opinion, the people called “Jews” today DO NOT constitute a single race. Rather, they are a multi-ethnic people, many of which are products of considerable race mixing. Khazar ancestry, by their own admission, is DOMINANT within Jewry. Over the centuries true Christianity -- as taught and practiced by the Messiah and his apostles -- was INFILTRATED and PAGANIZED by Jewish thought and practices. This has given rise to the term “Judeo-Christianity” which is nothing more than Judaism and pagan Greek concepts in disguise.

To answer the question “was Yeshua the Messiah a Jew?” -- the answer is a resounding NO! However, he WAS descended from Judah the son of Israel!

Now that we have a clear understanding of the terms Semite, Hebrew, Israelite, Judean and Jew, we need to examine the meaning and usage of another often MISUSED and MISREPRESENTED word -- “Gentile.” This will be the subject of Lesson 4. Also, in Lesson 4, we will identify WHO the TRUE DESCENDANTS of the Israelites are in the world today!



Assyrians, too, were Semites.

**What, *Exactly*, Was Abraham?
(By John C. Green)**

The identity of Abraham is one of the least understood and most misquoted of Bible facts. There are three questions we should ask: (1) Who was Abraham?, (2) What was his nationality? and (3) Was Abraham a "Jew"? This article will analyze and put to rest the many misconceptions about the man Abraham.

The man Abram -- later known as "ABRAHAM" -- came from an illustrious line of ancestors. His family tree contained no less a personality than ANCIENT NOAH. Abraham's family line descended from Noah's son SHEM. So, we should begin by tracing Abraham's descent!

In **Genesis 10:1** we read: "Now these are the generations of the SONS OF NOAH: Shem, Ham and Japheth...." Continuing from this verse, we have listed for us a number of SHEM'S descendants. In **Verse 24**, and again in **Genesis 11:14**, we find in the line of Shem a man called EBER or HEBER. Since Heber was in the line of SHEM, he was automatically a SHEMITE. Heber's descendants were known as HEBREWS.

Trace this line down to **Genesis 11:24** and you learn of a man named TERAH. Then, in **verse 26** we learn that Terah had three sons, "And Terah....began ABRAM, Nahor and Haran."

Abraham - note it carefully -- was a descendant of NOAH -- through Shem and HEBER. This makes Abraham a "HEBREW-SHEMITE" or a "SHEMITE-HEBREW." Thus, this is the answer to Question One.

By researching a little further, we find in **Genesis 11:28**, that Abraham's brother Haran died -- but we also learn something further enlightening relative to our research. It reads:

"And Haran died...in the land of his nativity "IN UR OF THE CHALDEES."

Do you grasp this thought? -- Haran was born in the City of Ur of the Chaldees! Since Haran was Abraham's brother, we can safely assume -- scholarship also supporting this view -- that Abraham also was born in Chaldea. Abraham, therefore, was a CHALDEAN!

Now, in view of his triple back-ground, just what was Abraham? What was his nationality? He was, on the basis of this Bible revelation, a descendant of Shem and Heber at the same time, a NATIVE CITIZEN OF CHALDEA. This, then, is the answer to question Two.

Now let us examine the third and perhaps most contentious question, "WAS ABRAHAM A "JEW"?"

Indeed, on the basis of his TRIPLE background, we must honestly conclude that Abraham was not a "Jew"! By no stretch of the imagination does his Biblically revealed background reveal or permit this! Then too, he was NOT an ISRAELITE nor ever called one!

But the Bible does clearly reveal that Abraham was a S H E M I T E -- HEBREW-CHALDEAN! Perhaps new and shocking to you, but true!

"But," you insist, "didn't Abraham BECOME THE FIRST "JEW"?"

Again, I invite you to examine and analyze the facts and Biblical information relative to this question! Let's review the Bible record!

If we carefully search the statements of the Bible, we must honestly confess that we search in vain to find recorded even ONCE such statements as: "ABRAHAM THE 'JEW,'" "ABRAHAM THE FIRST 'JEW.'" or even "ABRAHAM THE FATHER OF THE 'JEWS'!"

These statements or descriptions just do not appear as part of your Bible record!

In fact; the first time the plural term “JEWS” (the actual translation from the Hebrew should be “**JUDAHITES**,” indicating the people of the Southern Kingdom of **JUDAH**) is used is in **2 Kings 16:6**, where Syria, an ally of **ISRAEL**, interestingly, is at war with “the **JEWS**.”

The singular term “**JEW**” is not used before this time! In reality, it does not appear until about a century or more after the use of the plural term. In fact, in **Esther 2:5**, where we read: “Now in Shushan, the palace, there was a certain **JEW** whose name was Mordecai...a **BENJAMITE**.” Here the Hebrew of the term “**JEW**” again implies a **JUDAHITE**, this time from the tribe of Benjamin, which tribe, along with Judah, formed the Nation of the Jews (or the southern kingdom) after the Kingdom split into two parts, the northern kingdom being the Nation of Israel.



Abraham about to sacrifice Isaac. Genesis 22:11-13.

So, you see, the term “**JEW**,” in its true Bible sense -- and not the almost universal use of the term today -- was never used until centuries after the death of Abraham.

Now, I ask you, is some of this Bible Truth beginning to come clear? Can you see that what the Bible says about this subject is not what man has traditionally believed and taught about it? And we must recognize that with the understanding of Bible truth goes also the responsibility and challenge of acknowledging, accepting, and acting upon this truth!

So, remember, **ABRAHAM** was a **HEBREW**, as were Isaac and Jacob -- **ALL DESCENDANTS OF HEBER**. The Almighty, in

time, according to the Bible record, changed Jacob’s name to **ISRAEL**. The twelve sons of Jacob-Israel were the first Israelites! Notice carefully they were not “**Jews**” (Judahites)! Nevertheless, the religious world -- despite these completely obvious facts -- still tenaciously holds to this assumption and goes on calling Abraham, Isaac, Jacob -- Israel and Jacob’s sons “**Jew**.” But, the Bible **NEVER** does!

I offer one final point to bring the name “**Jew**” into proper focus. This term, i.e., “**JEW**,” linguistically is derived from the Hebrew word “**YEHU-DAH**” or **JUDAH**, one of Jacob’s **TWELVE** sons. Notice the similarity in the English pronunciation of “**JEW**” and the first syllable of the name **JUDAH**, namely “**JU**.” This answers question number Three, that is, “**Abraham was not a ‘Jew**.””

Worthwhile Books to Read:

The Pagan Mysteries of Halloween, by Jean Markale.

The Two Babylons, by Alexander Hislop.

NOTES:**Answers to Questions in Lesson 1**

1. c. Nimrod 2. Nicolas or Nimrod 3. Saturnalia 4. solstice 5. Puritans 6. Christmas tree
7. asherahs 8. cold, rainy 9. folds 10. Anointed One or Messiah
11. Messiah, King 12. Messiah 13. 3 B.C. 14. Feast of Trumpets or Day of Trumpets
15. 300 16. Roman Catholic Church

Check Your Progress...

Question 1: Who was the **first** person to be **called** a “Hebrew” in the King James Bible?
a. Adam **b. Noah** c. Abram d. Isaac e. Jacob

Question 2: By **definition**, who was the **first** Hebrew (the father of the Hebrews)?
a. Adam **b. Eber** c. Abraham d. Isaac e. Jacob

Question 3: Why would it be **incorrect** to call Adam and his sons Hebrews?

Question 4: By **definition**, which of the following was the **first** Israelite (the father of the Israelites)? a. Adam **b. Noah** c. Abraham d. Isaac e. Jacob

Question 5: Why would it be **incorrect** to call Abraham and Isaac Israelites?

Question 6: Which of the following terms apply to the apostle Paul?
a. Semite **b. Hebrew** c. Israelite d. Benjamite

Question 7: Chapter 2 of Exodus records the birth of Moses. Why could he be called an Israelite? (Verse 1). _____

Question 8: Was Moses called a Hebrew? (Verse 6). _____

Question 9: Were Moses’ brethren Hebrews? _____

Question 10: Esau was NOT which of the following? a. Semite **b. Hebrew** c. Israelite

Question 11: How could Esau be a Hebrew but NOT an Israelite?

Question 12: Genesis 11:10-27 gives Shem’s family record. How many of those listed were Hebrews? _____

Question 13: How many of those listed were Israelites? _____

Question 14: Can Judaism trace its roots back to Babylon? _____

The answers will be found in the next lesson. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 1-4, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.

