

Jewish Evangelism Training

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MESSIANIC CONGREGATION FOR BOTH JEWISH & GENTILE BELIEVERS

INTRODUCTION

Welcoming, Prayer and Review of Outline

Welcome to all of you. I commend you for participating in this class.

It shows your heart for Israel and the Jewish people.

Let us pray

Shema Israel, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad. Here O Israel, the Lord is God, the Lord is One. (Deuteronomy 6:4) Abba, father, thank you for this time together to study your word, be in your presence, and fellowship together. Lord, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and we believe your word that tells us, that those who bless Israel shall be blessed. We acknowledge that bringing the **Good News** to the Jewish people is in obedience to the Great Commission you've bestowed upon us. We acknowledge that this is your work and that we are but Sowers of YOUR seed. We ask that you manifest yourself in the splendor of your boldness and Holy Spirit, before all those we witness to of your love, your truth, and your precious Son Yeshua, and His saving grace. We honor Israel's special and distinct place in Your Word, prophecies, promises and God's plan in the future for the full, complete, and final restoration of Israel. Your word tells us that the fields are ripe for the harvest (John 24:34-37), the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life. Thank you, Abba Father, for your love, mercy, and peace that surpasses all understanding. May you bless and edify our time together, that we may lift your name and glorify You throughout the earth. In Yeshua's name we pray.

Our reliance on this teaching is on the Word and the Holy Spirit

Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the Sower and bread for the eater ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

John 14:6

²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

What this verse is saying is that the Spirit of God will bring to our memory many things that we have learned. When we read or study the Scriptures, nothing is wasted – the Spirit will bring it back to you at the proper time – However, notice what Jesus says here - For this to happen - we must put in the time to learn them. And this is what we are about to do now - E.W. Bullinger, a great commentator of the 1800's said the Bible could be compared to the earth – *“things necessary to life and sustenance may be obtained by scratching the surface of the earth; if you work the earth, you can plant wheat and all kinds*

of vegetable, enough to feed yourself - but there are treasures of beauty and wealth to be obtained by digging deeper into it - you will find, sapphire, Rubies, Diamonds - so it is with the Bible”.

And all of this, we know the Spirit of God is there to assist us to dig out these treasures.

This course is designed to effectively bring the word to the Jewish people. In this course, it's my aim to edify and equip you to:

- a. Understand who the Jewish people and Israel are, which is a monumental task:
 - i. We need to consider her history in the Bible, which extends **from Genesis to Revelation**.
 - ii. As well as her history for the last 2600 years when she found herself among the without a land, without an army, and under much persecution.
- b. Know how to present the gospel to Jews, and Gentiles
- c. Know how to handle frequently asked questions and objections.
- d. Use best strategies for sharing the Good News with Jews
- e. Summarize what we have learned, draw conclusions, and finally, have discussion and Q&A time.
- f. We have included most of the Scripture references in your handout to save you the time of having to look them up in your Bible as we move forward.

The reasons why we do and do not evangelize to Jews

Why we do not evangelize to Jews

We are intimidated by Jews

Many Jews have a very deep knowledge of Scripture (and yet they are blind to the Messiahship of Jesus.) We can feel like we are of our depth. Surprisingly, the truth is surprisingly few (less than 60-80% have any real faith in God, and even less actually study the Scriptures, preferring simply to follow the traditions, culture, main holidays and customs of Judaism, while, leaving the weightier matters of the Bible to the rabbis.

We don't know the answers

We fear being asked questions that we don't have answers for. That's okay and it is why you're here; to learn more about what you need to know. Presenting the gospel, as we shall see, is so simple that even a child can understand it. We will endeavor to equip you with what you need to know and always remember the words of Ananias to Paul as his sight was restored in Damascus.

In Acts 22:14-16 He said *'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear a message from His mouth. ¹⁵ For you will be a witness for Him to all people*

of what you have seen and heard.¹⁶ Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized and wash away your sins by calling on His name.'

Ananias told Paul to **be a witness** of what he had “seen and heard” after Yeshua appeared to him. You will quickly see that people can’t argue with your personal testimony; that is why it’s called witnessing and testifying for our Lord.

We don’t want to appear antisemitic

It’s true that the Jews have suffered much persecution from Christians, and the church, but that was not God’s intention for the church. Rather, it is the twisted result of the church gone awry since it became the major accepted religion of the Gentiles since the time of Constantine, and the early church fathers. Based on Israel’s temporary rejection of Christ, and being falsely blamed for his death, early church fathers despised the Jew, and created their own creeds, holy days, and calendars, quite separate from Israel and the “Olive Tree.”: It is up to us to **dispel myths** and be willing to address these issues, which we will help you through this series. In the last 60 years, we have seen a gradual warming and healing between the church and Israel, and we need to keep that going and growing.

Other? Share your thoughts or your stories!

Why we do evangelize to Jews

To Make Israel Envious

In Romans 11:11, as Gentiles and believers, we are given the role to make Israel envious of the intimate, personal, and living relationship we have with the God of Israel through our faith in Yeshua:

‘I say then, they (the Jews) did not stumble so as to fall, did they? Far from it! But by their wrongdoing salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.’

The Great Commission

All believers are called by Yeshua to fulfill the “Great Commission” in Matthew 28:18-20. This includes the Jewish people:

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age”.

Luke 24:44-47 sees this Great Commission as starting with the Jewish people in fact:

⁴⁴ Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all the things that are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,⁴⁶ and He said to them, “So it is

written, that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance [^c]for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

Paul echoes this in Romans 1:16: ¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

To Bless Israel

God's covenantal commitments in the Abrahamic (Genesis 12:3), Davidic (2 Samuel 7:8-17), and New Covenants (Jeremiah 31:31-337) were made with Israel, and were never meant to eventually exclude her, as the blessing of salvation came to the Gentiles. God is faithful to His Promises, and to the people with whom He made those core promises (See Romans Chapters 9-11). We honor God and His mission as we bring the Good News to the Jewish people that they may be blessed.

To Glorify the Messiah

The Jews comprise less than 2% of the world's population, and today, less than 2% of all Jews believe Jesus, Yeshua, to be the Messiah of Israel. The truth is, if He is not the Messiah for everyone, He is not the Messiah at all.

For Jewish Evangelism in the Latter Days

Some of the 144,000 Sealed Jews who will spread the Good News in the Tribulation and End of Times, may be alive today, and you may be blessed with the task of witnessing to them! Only God knows! The point is that what you say and do may not just benefit the one(s) with whom you are speaking, but also generations after you long after Yeshua has gathered us, and the church up into heaven.

To Dispel Myths and Untruths

Many Jews have vision of faith in Yeshua as it being the "Religion of the Gentiles" with an "Us versus Them" mentality. We need to correct false ideas that have developed over time, and bring truth to Jewish people, starting with the Jewishness of the Gospel, Yeshua, His disciples, as well as the fact that the New Testament was written by Jews. This can be eye-opening stuff for Jewish people, some of whom may be amazed and enlightened by what you share with them.

Jews & Gentiles Need Each Other

God is calling a remnant of Jewish sons and daughters back to Himself. Today, there are over 30,000 Messianic Jews in the Holy Land. Will you join God in this mission? The truth is, Gentiles need Jewish peoples, and Jews need the Gentiles. Moses was married to a Gentile, and Joshua entered the Promised Land with Caleb the Gentile right beside him. They were the only two survivors left of men over 20 who left Egypt 40 years prior. Jews and Gentiles find unity in the body of Messiah, and all whose names are

inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life will be together forever in the New Heaven and Earth, and the Eternal State.

DEFINING THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Who then is the Jew?

A right answer is crucial because the Jews are all over the Bible There are over 2000 references to Israel in Scripture. And 75% of Scripture is the story of Israel, start to finish.

It is important that the Bible reader gain a good understanding as to who they are and what role they play in God's sovereign plan. What happens when we have a false conception of the Israel and the Jews? I have found that two extremes are often reached:

- a) One will end up either disliking and even hating the Jews - which is the most usual consequence – and,
- b) Others will often overestimate them, thinking that they are a super-race.

Both positions are of course not desirable.

Their presence and their history, that is uncovered as no other histories of man, is there for our learning and understanding of the ways of God as Paul says in Romans 15:4:

"⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

So, if someone finds something that is extraordinary about this race – let me tell you that one should not be looking at the people BUT at the God that is behind them.

Over 200 times in the Bible, God is called the 'God of Israel'. The last time is in the Gospels. And notice that the Bible mentions other nations that existed with the Jews – but today you never met a Hittite, an Amorite, a Hivite, a Jebusite, yet the Jews are still here.

That is an indication of God's preservation of this nation, which is still in effect even to this day. So, the least we can say is that the Jews are a peculiar people!

Numerically the Jews are a very small group, they represent less **than 1 per cent** of the world population and yet they exert much influence and authority on the rest of the world. There are, perhaps, fifteen million Jews in a world of 7 billion people. Consider for example, the Nobel prize awards - out of 750 Nobel prizes, given out in various categories, 22% of all recipients were Jews when they represent less than 1% of the population.¹ And their influence was and is so great that some people think that there is some kind of **conspiracy** by the Jews to take over the world.

This is simply saying that they are a super-race – but they are not – they are people like everyone else who need to hear the Gospel and need salvation – however, there is a unique and entire spiritual dimension behind Israel and it is my prayer that today we will together be able to better understand the true nature of this nation.

Winston S. Churchill: *"Some people like the Jews, and some do not. But no thoughtful man can deny the fact that they are, beyond any question, the most formidable and most remarkable race which has appeared in the world."*²

The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greco-Roman empires followed; and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind.

Mark Twain said, *"All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?"*³

He also said, *"If statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human population, and properly speaking, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning are also away out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world, in all the ages; and had done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself and be excused for it."*⁴

So then, the first question today is **how do you define a Jew?** What really constitutes Jewishness? Who is a Jew? Does the term denote a religion, a race, an ethnic group, or a nationality? This is problem within the Jewish community and for the Israeli government as well; they cannot agree on one definition.

According to an article written in the Israeli newspaper, **Haaretz**, on Sept.27, 2015, on *who is a Jew*, they begin by saying that: *"defining 'who is a Jew' is complex and tedious; it is a question that's been dealt with and is still being dealt with not only by Jews, but by non-Jews of all sorts, from admirers of the Jewish people to its bitterest enemies."*

For those who have never heard of the Jewish people (and I have met some who either do not know what a Jew is, or met one in person) I point to is the land of Israel. Most people have heard of Israel, at least, and surely, about the ongoing conflict and constant stream of terrorism and wars that plague the Middle East, especially now since the Hamas invasion of October 7, 2023.

Most people also know of the Holocaust, Adolf Hitler, and his Nazi regime, which summarily tortured and murdered six million Jewish men, women, and children in what he called the "Final Solution." May their memory be for a blessing.

The Jews are known, the world over, as the people that don't eat pork, do not work on Saturday, do not believe in Jesus (except a few), and they have their own religion called "Judaism." They are also known for being among the most talented, smartest, articulate, and richest people in the world, as well as for being leaders in business, philanthropy, medicine, law, and the arts. Many are familiar with famous Jews, such as Adam Sandler (the funny "Hanukkah song"), Dustin Hoffman, Steven Spielberg, Albert Einstein, Barbara Streisand, Steve Jobs, Bob Dylan, Jerry Seinfeld, and Joan Rivers.

Then, of course, there is Jewish humor itself. Jewish humor is known to be sarcastic, sardonic, witty, corny, tragically funny, risky, and poignant.

There are also the typical Jewish foods from the delicatessens; the latkes, smoked meat, borscht, gefilte fish, and who hasn't heard of bagels with lox and cream cheese and chicken soup with matzah balls?

So, who and what exactly is a Jew? Does the land of Israel define them? Their food? Their humor? Their ethnicity? Their lineage? Their religion? Honestly, there isn't a simple, quick answer to this, as it could be all, or some, or maybe even just one of these things that may define a Jew.

While Israel is the Land of the Jews, a person can be Jewish without ever setting foot in Israel their entire life. The late Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the famous leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch organization, was proof enough of that fact. He was the Jewish head of the largest Orthodox Jewish organization in the world, and yet he was not born in Israel, nor did he ever even visit Israel.

It's not really religion then that defines a Jew either. While the normative Jewish religion is Judaism, the majority (an estimated 80 percent) of modern-day Jewish people are agnostic or atheist, yet they are still identified as Jews. While Judaism is the official religion of the Jews, there are different sects of Judaism with the major ones being Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. There is also a small **remnant** of Jews, throughout the generations, that believe Yeshua (Jesus) is the Messiah, and they are called Messianic Jews.

One thing that is very important to note, especially in Jewish evangelism, is that the concept of a Messiah is Jewish at its origin, and Hebrew is the only language that naturally contains the word within its root vocabulary. It would therefore seem that no matter where a Jew lives, or what he believes or doesn't believe, a Jew is mostly a Jew by lineage. This lineage dates to the patriarch Abraham, by the rite of male circumcision. Therefore, Jews are a people chosen by God, set apart, and identified by the rite of male circumcision.

DEFINITION OF A JEW

One definition that has come to us from the ancient sages and rabbis of Judaism from the end of the Second Temple period, at the time of Jesus, says that a Jew is a person born to a Jewish mother. That's because they said we do not know who was definitely the father, even though, the Jewish lineage in the Bible is paternal, hence the "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

From this definition some 2000 years ago, others have been formulated.

Secular Definition

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a Jew as “A member of the people and cultural community whose traditional religion is Judaism and who trace their origins to the ancient Hebrew people of Israel. The name is Middle English and comes via Old French and Latin from Greek “Ioudaios”, via Aramaic from Hebrew yĕhūdī, from yĕhūdāh 'Judah'. The Webster dictionary defines a Jew as: someone whose religion is Judaism, who is descended from Jewish people, **OR** who participates in the culture surrounding Judaism.” The preposition **OR** tells us that they are too sure.

Judaism's Definition

Orthodox/Conservative

Some one born of a Jewish mother; or a convert/proselyte.

Other branches of Judaism

There are differences of opinion among the various branches of Judaism in the application of this definition, including:

The effect of mixed parents

i.e., whether a person of mixed Jewish and non-Jewish parents should be considered Jewish.

Conversion

i.e., what processes of conversion should be considered valid.

Historical loss of Jewish identity

i.e., whether a person's or group's actions (such as conversion to a different religion) or circumstances in his or her community's life (such as being unaware of Jewish parents) should affect his or her status as Jewish or non-Jewish.

Reform/Reconstructionist

Some born of at least one Jewish parent and who is raised as a Jew, and the child choosing to be Jewish, Reform Judaism stresses the importance of being raised Jewish; if a child is born to Jewish parents and was not raised Jewish then the child is not considered Jewish.

As the various denominations of Judaism differ on their conversion processes, conversions performed by more liberal denominations are not accepted by those that are less so.

In his manuscript “[Jews, Gentiles and Christians](#)”, Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, founder of Ariel Ministries, gives these important statistics taken from the Jerusalem Post of Nov. 25, 1968.

12% declared that a Jew is a person whose father or mother is Jewish or who has a Jewish spouse.
23% claimed that a Jew is a person who considers himself a Jew.
19% held that a man born to a Jewish mother or who converts to Judaism is a Jew.
13% said a Jew is one who lives in Israel or who identifies with the Jewish State.
13% stated that a Jew is one who observes the Jewish religious practices.
11% answered that a Jew is one who is raised and educated as a Jew.
9% said they could not define it.

And we can add the one found in the Encyclopedia of Judaism *definition of a Jew as any person born of at least one Jewish parent — father or mother, convert or born Jew — who participates in the Jewish community and practices aspects of Judaism as a religion.*

Why so many points of view? Why can't they agree on the definition? This sets precedence because the definition is in the Scriptures and they do not go there to find them – but it is in the Scriptures where a Jew will find himself; his history, his ancestry, his *raison d'être*: they do not go to the Scriptures, and this was Jesus' argument to the leaders in **Mat.22:29**: "*You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God*".

This definition of a Jew then becomes an opportunity for us to bring them back home to the Bible.

Biblical Definition

Outwardly

Someone from the lineage of Abraham, through the "Promise"

Inwardly

Circumcision of the heart; by the Spirit. (Romans 2:29)

Lineage

Let's consider what is meant by "Lineage".

Looking to the Bible, The Jews (Hebrews) descended from Shem, a Son of Noah.

Noah was a descendant of Seth, the third son of Adam and Eve. According to Rashi, Noah's wife was Na'amah, and she was an upright and righteous woman. They had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Only eight (8) people populated the Earth after the Great Flood: Noah, his wife, three sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth), and their respective wives. The "Table of the Nations" in Genesis 10, reveals that all nations and peoples of the world descended from these three sons.

THE TABLE OF THE NATIONS

GENESIS 10



Source: <https://www.wearehebrew.com/shem-ham-japheth-races>

Ham (Africa)

Ham (Hebrew for hot or black) was Noah's second oldest son. Ham and his wife bore four sons. If you recall from the story of Noah in the vineyard, Ham looked upon Noah's nakedness, and so Noah cursed Ham's youngest son, Canaan. This did not affect Ham's descendants, but it did affect the land that bore Canaan's name where he had settled. This land would later be lost to the Israelites when Joshua led the people into the Promised Land. Their descendants included the Egyptians and Sumerians, as well as other great nations, such as the Phoenicians, Hittites, and Canaanites. The modern African tribes and the Mongol tribes (including today the Chinese and the Japanese), as well as the Native Americans and the South Sea Islanders, are probably Hamitic in origin.

The Four Hamitic Nations

Cush (Ethiopians) who settled in northeastern Africa (Ethiopia)

Mizraim (Egyptians) who also settled in northeastern Africa (Egypt)

Put (Libyans) who settled in northern Africa (Libya)

Canaan (Canaanites) who settled above Africa, east of the Mediterranean Sea (later this land was given to the Hebrews and became Israel)

Japheth (Europe)

Japheth is a Hebrew name which means “God will enlarge.” He was Noah’s third son. Both Japheth and Shem were blessed for respecting their father in the story of the vineyard. The blessing on Japheth extended to all his descendants being the European Nations.

This term gathers a widespread family of languages from India to the Europe which spreads to the Americas and even to Australia and further. All these are the sons of Japheth. The Indo-European language includes English, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek, Russian, Albanian, Armenian, Persian, Hindi, and many others. More than half of the present-day world's population speaks one or more of these languages either as a mother tongue or as a business language. Noah's prophecy is fulfilled, Japheth spread large.

The Seven Japhetic Nations

Gomer (Cimmerians) settled north of the Black Sea. (Afterward, their descendants most probably settled in Germany, France, Spain, and the British Isles.

Madai (The Medes) settled south of the Caspian Sea.

Javan (Ionians or Greeks) settled in Greece.

Tubal (Turks) settled south of the Black Sea.

Meshech (Slavs) settled between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea.

Tiras (Etruscans) located west of the Black Sea. The coastlines of the Caspian Sea are shared by Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan. ** There are six countries with coastlines on the Black Sea: Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey (Türkiye), Bulgaria, and Romania.

From Japheth we read of *Gomer - Tubal - Meshech – Togarmah – Tarshish – Magog*, **these** are all present in the prophecy of **Ezekiel 38** which speaks of an invasion that will take place before the coming of the Messiah;

And we read of *Javan*, we see this nation at the very end of times, in **Isaiah 66** along with *Tubal*, **also** in **Ezekiel.27** and in **Daniel** who identifies them with the Greek people.

This table serves as a reference point and reveals to us who is who today in the world scene. The Bible reader is never left to himself, but will find in the Word, even in the genealogy, freedom, and rest.

Shem (Asia)

Shem (meaning the “Name”) was the oldest son of Noah and part of his original family of eight who survived the Flood. Shem and his wife were childless before the Flood, but after the Flood he bore a son at 110 years of age. He fathered five sons who became the fathers of the five Semitic nations as shown above. Shem was the father of the nations of the near east including the Israelites. The lineage from Shem to Abraham appears in the Bible in Genesis 11, at the first mention of Abraham.

The Five Semitic (Shemite) Nations

Elam, the Persians, settled northeast of the Persian Gulf (Iran).

Asshur, the biblical name for Assyria (Iran and Iraq).

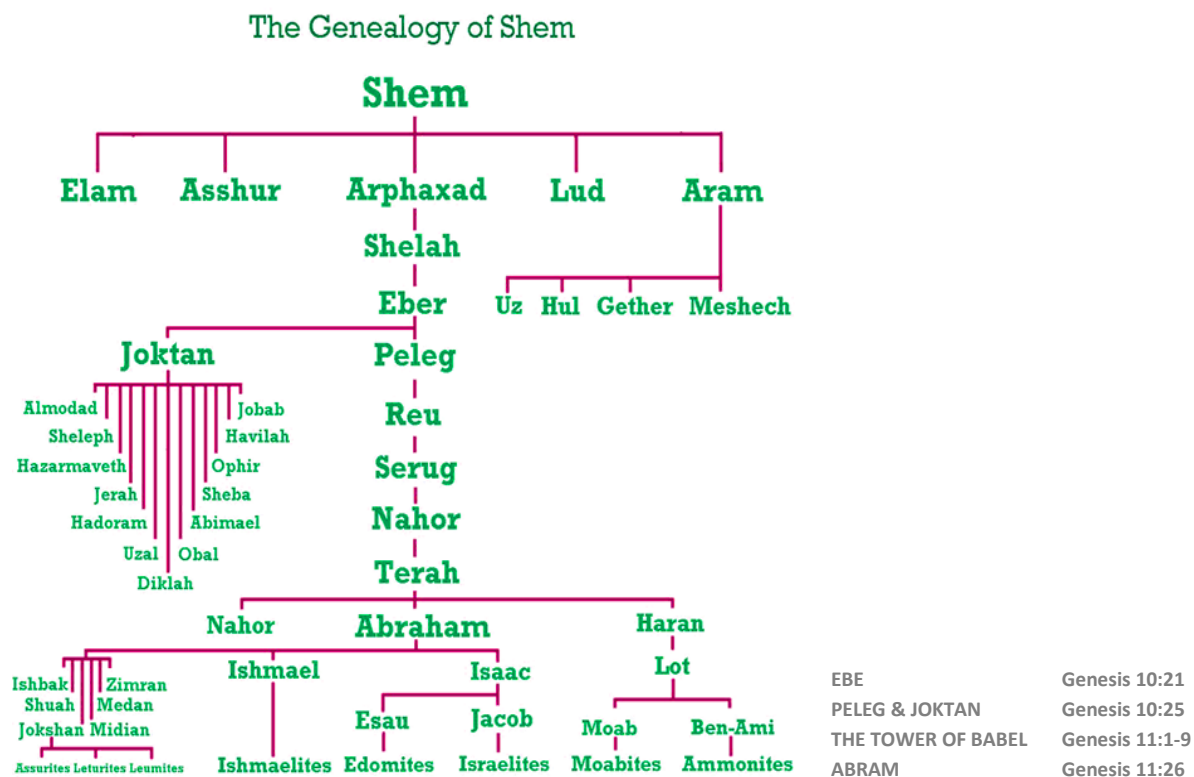
Arphaxad, the Babylonians, settled in Chaldea (Southern Iraq)

Lud (the Lydians) settled in Asia Minor, the Mediterranean region, and Northern Africa (Turkey).

Aram (the Syrians), the biblical name for Syria, located

Northeast of Israel (Syria). The genealogy of Shem is different as it gives us more details. It gives us the age of the father at the birth of the first born and the number of years the father lived afterwards. Like it was in the genealogy of **Chapter 5**, the good one through Seth.

The Table of the Nations and the Bible both reveal an amazing fact about the Jewish people; however, they are the **ONLY** people whose lineage and genealogy can be traced through the Bible from Shem to Abraham and the children of Israel (Jacob).



*To Eber were born two sons: **the** name of one was Peleg, **for** in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.*

From **Joktan** came the Arab tribes from Shem. Twelve of them. Most Arabs come from Ham, but only a few from Shem. These were dwelling in the east as **Vs.22:30** tells us. **This** area covers part of South Arabia, Yemen and Somalia and including eastern Arabia with Saudi Arabia.

But the verse says that in *Peleg* days, *the earth was divided*. How was the earth divided?

The first obvious separation is the genealogy of the Shem which now separates itself from the nations and concentrates on the one genealogy of one nation, leading to the Messiah. This genealogy continues in **Genesis 11:10** and follow its course until the Gospels.

Let us not go directly to Genesis 11:10 however, as it begins **right after Babel**: *"This is the genealogy of Shem" and so there* begins the story of how God was really coming down to us, in the incarnation of Yeshua – through the Messianic. Luke is Adam to Yeshua, and Matthew is from Abraham.

Here is the rest of the genealogy which was interrupted by the Tower of Babel.

From *Shem* in **Vs.10**, we meet again *Peleg* in **Vs.16** through whom the division came, and it leads us right to Abraham in **Vs.26**, the father of Isaac and Jacob through whom the Jews came and through whom the Son of God came down.

Why was the genealogy interrupted by Babel? This is strategically placed as Babel, (or Babylon) plays a major role of opposition in the history of Israel.

The Times of the Gentiles, (Luke 21:24) marked the time of the Diaspora in 586 BC when the Babylonian invaded Israel.

Throughout the prophets, the destruction of Babylon brought about the Messianic Age, it was always there as a hindrance. And in Rev.17-18 we see the destruction, **the final one**, of Babylon which ushers the Second Coming of our Lord and the establishment of the Messianic Age...finally!

We see the attempts to take out the SEED many times – 2 attempts on David's life and Saul attempted to kill him, and as soon as he was anointed – chosen Herod tried to take him our death of Messiah – root of antisemitism. We see the focus is also on Israel. God must intervene to save the remnant of Israel. Despite the many attempts – evil could not win, as shown by Jesus' miraculous disappearances. God would save Israel and save the Messiah.

In the Bible, in the original texts, Hebrew and Greek, it is never *Babylon* but always *Babel*. (I wish the translators left it as is, it would have made more sense.)

And it is here where we reach **Chapter 12 of Genesis**. A major chapter in Genesis. From **Genesis 12** to **Acts 2** is primarily the history of Israel. **And from Acts 2** it is both the history of Israel and that of her sister the Church all leading to the Second Coming of the Messiah. The history of Israel begins here in the first three verses of **Genesis 12**.

1. **Now** the LORD had said to Abram: "**Get** out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.
2. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.
3. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Illustration

We notice that many "Chapters of 12" in the Bible, often mark an important point in the history of Israel, as follows:

In **Genesis 12** we have the beginning of the history of the nation with Abraham beginning with the Abrahamic Covenant.

Exodus 12 marks the birth of the nation where God gives Israel a new calendar with a New Year, and this is marked by the Passover and the blood of the lamb that saved the Israelites from Judgment.

Matthew 12 marks the religious authorities' final rejection of Yeshua – in Matthew 13 begins the parables of the Kingdom of God.

Acts 12, Peter & Paul. **Isaiah** Israel & Babylon/nations. **Judges** conquer & distribute.

Also, **Revelation 12** is a condensed history of Israel situated right in between the first and the second rendering of the time of Tribulation.

The main players in the story of Genesis 12 are **Abraham** and **Sarah**. But their names **here** in Chapter 12 are different (Abram and Sarai). After it was changed (Gen.17:5 for Abraham and 17:17 for Sarah).

From Abram it was changed to Abraham and from Sarai it was changed to Sarah, but why the change? It has to do with God's election.

What changed in their name is the addition of one letter, the letter **H**. This is the 5th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; **this** is the number of grace. **This** number is 4 the number of the creation plus 1, the number of God. **Here** we find man and God walking together.

It is in this chapter of Genesis where God tells Abraham, for the first time, to *walk before Him and be blameless*.

The letter 'H' is placed in the middle of the name of Abram.

If number 5 is the number of 'grace' we then see here that the election of Abraham is that of grace. It was always election by grace. Israel was elected by grace.

Back to **Genesis 12**, we see:

In **Vs.1** Abraham's call.

In **Vs.2-3** the blessings he will get if he responds to God.

The Blessings

Blessing 1

And I will make you a great nation

He will become a great nation and this nation was to be Israel. This is the first time the word nation is in singular; Israel is the first nation that is singled out, because it was from her that the other nations will be blessed. The word for nation here is *goy*.

Today Jews will call a gentile a *goy*, which means nation, but the first mention of this word is here, Israel is then the first *goy*.

Blessing 2

And I will bless you

Throughout Abraham's life, we are going to see how the hand of the Lord was with him everywhere he went.

Blessing 3:

And make your name great.

His name will be great; His name will be paired with that of the Messiah as in **Galatians 3:29** '*if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed*'.

All the believers in Yeshua are also Abraham's spiritual seed. He is spoken of also in many other parts of the N.T. One entire chapter in Romans refers to Abraham and his dealings with God. **Romans 4**.

Two chapters in **Galatians, 3-4** speak so highly of him.

Blessing 4

So that you will be a blessing.

And we read in the promise that he will *be a blessing*. His life, his failures and his victories as we will see in the next few weeks, are a true blessing to us.

Blessing 5

I will bless those who bless you

Blessing 6

And him who curses you I will curse.

But see the last promises in **Vs.3** *I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you*. This is another indication that the life of his descendants, the physical ones, and the spiritual ones, will not have it easy. This verse tells us that there will be conflict in this world.

Notice how personally God takes this side of the promise; It goes from **plural** to singular. He will bless *those* who bless, but when it comes to hindering His people, Israel and by application the remnant of the church, **He will see to it personally...** *“And I will curse him who curses you”*. The two words, for *curse* are not the same in the original Hebrew. **The first word** (*kalal*) really means to belittle, despise, mistreat, to call worthless. We can read: *“And him who dishonors you I will curse (2nd word Harar) 63x used as in Genesis 9:25 to bring disaster”*.

Israel today, as it was in the Diaspora had often been belittled, reduced to a hindrance. To this God will answer, and he will *curse the one* who dishonors His people. This second word *curse* here to put away, to recede, as the water of the flood receded. It is to be put away from the presence of God.

In Summary

We can say then; that a very simple but biblical definition as to who or what is a Jew, is as follows: **a Jew is any descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all such descendants are Jews.**

Jewishness is rooted in the Abrahamic Covenant in **Genesis 12:1-3** we will investigate soon, the promise that God was going to form a new nation through the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is through them that the Jewish nation came into being and was established.

Therefore, a Jew is any descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It does not matter what the individual Jew may believe or disbelieve; he will always remain a Jew. A Jew is defined by his ancestry, not his faith. And its very definition brings us to the very purpose of the creation of Israel. And of course, it has to be through the three of them for from Abraham came Ishamel, from Isaac came Esau, the Edomites but from Jacob came all Israel.

Sha’ul, later known as Paul, issued this poignant statement in the book of Romans 2:28-29 (NLT), about what defines a true Jew. “For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.”

The Book of Matthew opens with the Jewish genealogy of Abraham all the way down to Yeshua. This reveals a clear lineage of the Jewish people, and confirmation of the Jewish lineage and identity of the Yeshua’s being a Jew; a necessary qualification for being the Messiah/Redeemer of Israel

Matthew 1:1 *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:*

<i>Son of David</i>	Davidic Covenant
<i>Son of Abraham</i>	Abrahamic Covenant

Note: Jesus, Yeshua, was called the Son of Abraham and Son of David because of this lineage.

PURPOSE OF THE JEW

This is something which, believe it or not, eludes most typical Jews you'll come across. Even secular Jews still pride themselves on being the Chosen People, and God never meant this to be taken in a prideful way. Being 'chosen' is not an end, but a means to an end. And the end is the PURPOSE for which the Jew is chosen.

Here we are about to read what the Jewish people, and the nation of Israel represents to God and why it was chosen. Unfortunately, very few Jews know about this passage.

If you ask a Jew, why God has chosen them – most of them will not know. And it is not that it is a secret – it just shows you Israel is far, estranged, might be from the Word of God.

It is in **Genesis 12:3** where we are beginning to see the purpose of the Jew, and finally, in at the end of **Vs.3** we see the purpose for the Jews:

"And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

In you - God is referring to the nation that will come through Abrahams' loins – all the families of the earth will be blessed.

That is that all the world will be blessed through Abraham. Through Abraham, Israel then the Messiah. After the resurrection, it is the Church who is composed of the "remnant of Israel" and the nations who will be blessing the Lord; that is us, the believers today.

The N.T. begins with the words, "*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham*:" this is where the genealogies of the first chapters of Genesis leads us. Right to Yeshua."

Jesus Christ the Son of Abraham brings us back to the **Genesis 12** where the **Table of the Nations** ends with one individual, **Abraham**, through whom God promises a great nation, Israel and through whom *all the families of the earth shall be blessed*.

Jesus Christ, the Son of David, speaks of the King Messiah; **David** was the first king of Israel according to the prophecy and **Yeshua** the last. From **David to Yeshua** is found within this simple start to Mathew 1:1.

And this title, *the Son of David* was well known by the people of the time of Jesus; "Could *this be the Son of David?*" they all said when they saw how Yeshua performed this messianic miracle of recreated sight on a man born blind. The Book of Matthew, more than all the other Gospels combined, uses this title for the Messiah.

Both Talmudic versions (The Jerusalem and the Babylonian versions) knew about it, as they also used this title more than 10 times and 20 times in the Midrash Rabbah, but it is only the Gospel where He, Yeshua, is to be discovered as the Messiah of Israel.

In **Matthew 1:1**, we see the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy; before this time, Israel was too busy with her internal problems, and it all begins with Yeshua. **He** is the first and **key** link to this blessing to all the families of the earth. Through Him and with Him,

Israel begins the fulfillment of her calling to be a **light to the nations (Isaiah 49:6)** and along Israel, the Gentiles come into the place of spiritual blessing of the New Covenant and together they formed the ecclesia, the Body of the Messiah. Paul compares the Ecclesia to Cultivated Olive Tree in Romans 11, with the natural branches being the faithful Jewish believers (the *Remnant* or *Israel of God* [Gal 6:16]), and the *grafted in* wild branches, being the faithful believing Gentiles, but verse the Tree is a Jewish Tree, the Tree is Israel, and verse 24 affirms.

We see Israel at the Root of the Christian faith through

1. Christianity is based upon Judaism. (See Matt. 1:1; Rom. 1:2; 3:21-23).
2. Mary was a Jewish woman. (See Luke 1:27).
3. Jesus was a Jew. (See Matt. 1:1; John 4:9; Rom. 1:3).
4. The Disciples were Jews. (See Matt 10:2-4; Acts 3:1).
5. The New Covenant was written by Jews. (See Romans 3:1, 2)
6. The Church was started with Jews. (See Acts 2:5, 41-43).
7. Salvation comes from the Jews. (See John 4:22). It is in this new congregation of God, the church where the true Israel begins the work it was initially created for. **When** Israel came out of Egypt, before the giving of the Law, God said *"And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."* (Exd.19:6).

Here in Matthew 1.1, it begins.

As for Abraham himself, God also told Him, *"I will bless you and make your name great."*

Abraham is in fact one of the most renowned people the world has ever seen.

He is a major figure and a common celebrity in Judaism and Christianity, and Islam claims him as its own; that is a lot of people for one man: his name is now great as the prophecy says and the Word has begun to spread to the nations, as the prophecy said.

Of course, the other name of Abraham, in some ways, became to be ISRAEL.

1 https://www.iinfo.org/Nobel_Prizes.html | https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Jewish_Nobel_laureates

2 <https://jewishcurrents.org/churchill-and-the-jews>

3 Modern History Sourcebook: Mark Twain: "Concerning the Jews" (Harper's Magazine, September 1899)

4 <https://www.simpletoremember.com/jewish/blog/mark-twain-and-the-jews/>