

The True Church and the Gentiles

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Jew

The name derived from the patriarch Judah, at first given to one belonging to the tribe of Judah or to the separate kingdom of Judah ([2Ki 16:6](#); [2Ki 25:25](#); [Jer 32:12](#); [Jer 38:19](#); [Jer 40:11](#); [Jer 41:3](#)), in contradistinction from those belonging to the kingdom of the ten tribes, who were called Israelites.

During the Captivity, and after the Restoration, the name, however, was extended to all the Hebrew nation without distinction ([Est 3:6](#), [Est 3:10](#); [Dan 3:8](#), [Dan 3:12](#); [Ezr 4:12](#); [Ezr 5:1](#), [Ezr 5:5](#)).

Originally this people were called Hebrews ([Gen 39:14](#); [Gen 40:15](#); [Exo 2:7](#); [Exo 3:18](#); [Exo 5:3](#); [1Sa 4:6](#), [1Sa 4:9](#), etc.), but after the Exile this name fell into disuse. But Paul was styled a Hebrew ([2Co 11:22](#); [Phi 3:5](#)).

The history of the Jewish nation is interwoven with the history of Palestine and with the narratives of the lives of their rulers and chief men. They are now dispersed over all lands, and to this day remain a separate people, “without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image [R.V. 'pillar,' marg. 'obelisk'], and without an ephod, and without teraphim” ([Hos 3:4](#)). **Till about the beginning of the present century they were everywhere greatly oppressed, and often cruelly persecuted; but now their condition is greatly improved, and they are admitted in most European countries to all the rights of free citizens. In 1860 the “Jewish disabilities” were removed, and they were admitted to a seat in the British Parliament. Their number in all is estimated at about six millions, about four millions being in Europe.**

There are three names used in the New Testament to designate this people,

(1.) Jews, as regards their nationality, to distinguish them from Gentiles.

(2.) Hebrews, with regard to their language and education, to distinguish them from Hellenists, i.e., Jews who spoke the Greek language.

(3.) Israelites, as respects their sacred privileges as the chosen people of God. “To other races we owe the splendid inheritance of modern civilization and secular culture; but the religious education of mankind has been the gift of the Jew alone.”

Easton’s Bible Dictionary

Shem

A name; renown, the first mentioned of the sons of Noah ([Gen 5:32](#); [Gen 6:10](#)). He was probably the eldest of Noah's sons. The words “brother of Japheth the elder” in [Gen 10:21](#) are more correctly rendered “the elder brother of Japheth,” as in the Revised Version. Shem's name is generally mentioned first in the list of Noah's sons. He and his wife were saved in the ark ([Gen 7:13](#)). Noah foretold his preeminence over Canaan ([Gen 9:23-27](#)). He died at the age of six hundred years, having been for many years contemporary with Abraham, according to the usual chronology. The Israelitish nation sprang from him ([Gen. 11:10-26](#); [1Ch 1:24-27](#)). **See table of descendants:**

Easton Bible Dictionary

Ham

1. The Youngest son of Noah, born probably about 96 years before the flood; and one of eight persons to live through the flood. He became the progenitor of the dark races; not the Negroes, but the Egyptians, Ethiopians, Libyans, and Canaanites ([Gen. 10:6-20](#)). His indecency, when his father lay drunken, brought a curse upon Canaan ([Gen. 9:20-27](#)). 2. City E of the Jordan ([Gen. 14:5](#)). 3. The descendants of the original Ham ([Pss. 78:51](#); [105:23](#) [106:22](#)). In these passages “Ham” is used as another name for Egypt as representing Ham’s principle descendents.

Zondervan’s Compact Bible Dictionary

Japheth

Ja'pheth. (*enlargement*). One of the three sons of Noah. The descendants of Japheth, occupied the "isles of the Gentiles," [Gen 10:5](#), -- that is, the coast lands of the Mediterranean Sea, in Europe and Asia Minor -- whence, they spread northward over the whole continent of Europe, and a considerable portion of Asia.

Smith’s Bible Dictionary