

World Religions

Answers to the Israel/Jewish Question

A Definition of Terms- Version 3

Biblical Terms in a Historical and Prophetic Context-

1. Biblical Terms for the “Jewish” People-

- **Hebrew**-The Hebrews are people descended from Abraham. The origin of the word *Hebrew* comes from the proper name “Eber,” from Genesis 10:24, the great-grandson of Shem and an ancestor of Abraham. The original root word comes from the phrase “to cross over or pass over”. Abraham referred to as a “Hebrew”. Genesis 14:13
- **Israel/Israelite/Judah**-The Israelites are the physical descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. God changed Jacob’s name to Israel in Genesis 32:28. Jacob is the father of twelve sons that make up the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - Exodus Stage (Exodus) through the United Kingdom Stage (1Kings 11), Jacob’s descendants were referred to as the “children of Israel” or “Israelites.”
 - Divided Kingdom Stage (1Kings 12); the ten northern tribes are referred to as **Israel** and the two southern tribes as **Judah**.
- **Jews**- The term “Jew” was derived from the Tribe of Judah during the first Jewish diaspora in Persia. No longer tribal; but a reference to those that endured during their exile. Esther 2:5

2. **Covenant**- A binding promise with deep significance and implications. In the Bible, a covenant is a solemn agreement between God and humanity, or between individuals. God's covenants are unconditional, meaning they are based on God's faithfulness and not dependent on human obedience.

3. Abrahamic Covenant/Everlasting Covenant- “A Purpose & A Place”-

- The Purpose- To be a blessing to the nations- Genesis 12:1-3
- The Place (Land Grant)- A base from which they were to be a blessing-
 - The Fertile Crescent- A natural land bridge between the nations of Europe (Japheth/Caucasoid), Asia (Shem/Mongoloid) and Africa (Ham/Negroid). Genesis 13:15; Genesis 15:18-21

4. **Diaspora**- The word *Diaspora* is a transliteration of a Greek word that means “to sow throughout” or “to distribute in foreign lands” or “scatter abroad.” The *Diaspora* refers to Jews living outside of Israel having been dispersed or scattered to other Gentile countries. Cause: Babylonia conquest in 606BC and the Roman Conquest of 70AD.

- The Jews of the *Diaspora*- Ashkenazi (European descent; Language- Yiddish); Sephardic (Spanish descent; Language- Ladino); & Mizrahi (Middle-eastern descent; Language- Aramaic)

5. **Judaism**- The different forms of the Jewish faith or religion. They include primarily Orthodox, Conservative and Reformed. Orthodox Judaism adheres to the most traditional interpretations of the Torah (Law) while Conservative Judaism seeks to balance tradition and Jewish law. Reform Judaism is the most progressive.

Theological Terms- Words not in the Bible, but reveal different religious “Schools of Thought”- i.e., “Theological Beliefs & Movements vs. Denominations/Religions”

1. **Dispensational Theology**- Dispensationalism is a theological system that addresses events/periods where God dispenses His grace differently throughout Biblical history. It embraces a literal interpretation of the OT promises and prophecies involving ethnic and national Israel versus the NT promises made specially to the church. It draws a distinct difference between the purpose and promises of Israel versus the church. It is embraced by Bible believing churches.
2. **Covenant Theology**- Covenant Theology views the covenants of scripture as manifestations of the Covenant of Works and the Covenant of Grace. It implies that the various covenants described in scripture (e.g., Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and the new covenant) are outworkings of either the covenant of works or the covenant of grace. Simply, the church is an expansion of Israel. Covenant theology often leads to “Replacement Theology. It is embraced by Protestantism since the reformation and adhered to by Reformed or Calvinistic churches.
3. **Reformed Theology**- Reformed theology includes any system of belief that traces its roots back to the Protestant Reformation of the 16th Century. Reformed theology adheres primarily to the teachings of John Calvin.
4. **Replacement Theology**- Replacement theology teaches that the church has replaced Israel in God’s plan. Adherents of replacement theology believe the Jews are no longer God’s chosen people, and God does not have specific future plans for the nation of Israel.
5. **Dual Covenant Theology**- Dual covenant theology, also called two-covenant theology, assumes that God has established a covenant with Israel through the Mosaic Law and another with Gentiles through Jesus Christ. According to dual covenant theology, however, the Old Covenant remains valid for Jews, and the New Covenant only applies to Gentiles. i.e., CUFI
6. **British Israelism**- Also known as Anglo-Israelism, is the belief that the "lost ten tribes" of Israel migrated to Europe and then to England and became the primary ancestors of the British people and, thereby, the United States. British Israelism was made popular by the Worldwide Church of God and Herbert Armstrong, but other groups have held the doctrine as well.
7. **Christian Identity Movement**- Is a name that applies to a variety of different religious cults that embrace racist, anti-Semitic principles. It is simply neo-British Israelism. Christian Identity cults are connected by various unbiblical theological similarities, mostly centered on a white supremacist mindset that seeks to replace national Israel with British or American whites as the chosen people of God.
8. **Dominionism**- Also known as “Kingdom Now” theology is a theological belief within the Charismatic movement of Protestant Christianity, mainly in the United States. Kingdom Now proponents believe that God lost control over the world to Satan when Adam and Eve sinned. Since then, the theology teaches that God has been trying to reestablish control over the world by seeking a special group of believers—known variously as "covenant people.”
9. **New Apostolic Reformation**- The New Apostolic Reformation, or NAR, is an unbiblical religious movement that emphasizes experience over scripture, mysticism over doctrine, and modern-day “prophets” over truth. A particular distinction of NAR is the role and power of its spiritual leaders and miracle-workers by receiving of “new” revelations from God resulting in the spiritual control of the culture and society. Signs and wonders in NAR theology are always accompanied by false doctrine.

Geopolitical Terms with a Biblical Context-

1. **Zionism-** A political movement in its inception, has today become more of an ideology. Zionism is an international movement of the return of the Jewish people to Zion, the land of Israel. The roots of Zionism lie in Genesis chapters 12 and 15, in which God makes a covenant with Abraham promising him and his descendants that they would inherit the land between Egypt and the Euphrates River. “The Theology of the Land” belief.

2. **Christian Zionism-** Zionism connects directly to God's covenantal promises to Abraham regarding the land of Israel. While political Zionism emerged as a movement supporting a Jewish return to their ancestral homeland, Christian Zionism views this movement through the lens of Biblical prophecy and the Old Testament's divine promises. A Biblical worldview reveals why many Christians believe in the establishment of the modern state of Israel and its right to exist.

3. People Groups in the Land-

- **Israelis-** A term used to define a citizen of Israel. Consisting of Jews; Arab Muslims; Arab Christians; Various Christian denominations; Samaritans; and Druze
- **Palestinians-** Arab people that live in the Occupied territories- i.e., Leadership consists of Hamas; PLO/Palestinian Authority

4. Conflicts for the Land-

- WW1- The Balfour Declaration and the Sykes/Picot Agreement
- WW2- The British Mandate and creation of the modern state of Israel
- The Arab/Israeli Wars- The War of Independence; the Six-day War; the Yom-Kippur War
- The Intifadas- The Arab word for uprising or rebellion. The term was borrowed from Arabic to name the Palestinian uprising in the late 1980s and early 1990s, aimed at ending Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the goal of creating an independent Palestinian state.

5. History of the Land- “Whose Promised Land?” Israel or Palestine

- Terms for the Land-
 - Israel- Israel Proper & Judea & Samaria
 - Palestine- Occupied Territories- West Bank; Golan Heights; Gaza

6. **Anti-Semitism- Not just Anti-Semitism; but Jewish Hatred-** Why does the world hate the Jews? Why is anti-Semitism so rampant in so many different nations? What is so bad about the Jews? History has shown that at various times over the last 1,700 years the Jews have been expelled from over 80 different countries. Historians and experts have concluded there are at least six possible reasons:

- Racial Theory – the Jews are hated because they are an inferior race.
- Economic Theory – the Jews are hated because they possess too much wealth and power.
- Outsiders Theory – the Jews are hated because they are different from everyone else.
- Scapegoat Theory – the Jews are hated because they are the cause for all the world's problems.
- Deicide Theory – the Jews are hated because they killed Jesus Christ. Matthew 27:27
- Chosen People Theory – the Jews are hated because they arrogantly declare they are the “chosen ones of God.” Deuteronomy 7:6-9