

Revelation 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Jews

Judah was one of the tribes of Israel, descended from Judah, fourth son of Jacob.

Genesis 29:35 And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah [H3063 *yehudah*; and left bearing.

KJV note: “that is, Praise” K&D: “the one for whom Jehovah is praised”

When the kingdom was divided, what was left to King Rehoboam was mostly the tribe of Judah (with some others from other tribes).

1 Kings 12:16-17 So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents. 17 But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

The other tribes, after living in idolatry for generations, were scattered by the Assyrians.

2 Kings 17:6-8 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 7 For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, 8 And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

2 Kings 17:18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

After that, the Israelites that remained, whose identity was not lost and mixed with the other nations, came to be referred to by the name of the remaining tribe and kingdom of Judah, even if they were not of that tribe.

This was already the case in the latter part of the Old Testament.

Esther 2:5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain **Jew** [H3064 *yehudi*], whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;

plural *yehudim*

LXX G2453 Ioudaios plural Ioudaioun

This was the case in the New Testament. The people were referred to as the Jews

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the **Jews**:

Even those who were not of the tribe of Judah

Acts 19:14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a **Jew**, and chief of the priests, which did so. [So, of what tribe? Levi]

Acts 21:39 But Paul said, I am a man which am a **Jew** of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.

Philippians 3:4-5 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

synagogue G4864 assembly, congregation

from G4863 *sunago* to lead together

Luke 4:16-21 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the **synagogue** on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Matthew 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan

John 8:37-44 I know that ye are Abraham's **seed [G4690 sperma]**; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. 38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. 39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's **children [G5043 teknon]**, ye would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. 41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

G5043 *teknon* plural *tekna*

Romans 9:6-9 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the **seed [G4690 sperma]** of Abraham, are they all **children [G5043 teknon]**: but, In Isaac shall thy **seed [G4690 sperma]** be called. 8 That is, They which are the **children [G5043 teknon]** of the flesh, these are not the **children [G5043 teknon]** of God: but the **children [G5043 teknon]** of the promise are counted for the **seed [G4690 sperma]**. 9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.

Often, the congregations of the Lord Jesus Christ are blasphemed by those who claim to be God's people, but are not.

Sometimes it comes from those who claim there is some special status with God for those who are the seed of Abraham according to the flesh.

Sometimes it doesn't have anything to do with being Jewish. Religious groups who claim Jesus Christ can have other reasons they bring forward for why they should be considered the true people of God.

- long tradition
- connection to prominent historical figures
- political power
- large numbers
 - in attendance
 - in service
 - of converts
- wealth
- social status
- high level of activity

When such groups speak against us, it can make us have doubts about our own congregation, or our own convictions. And it can just plain hurt, also.

But knowing that we are the true congregation of the Lord is very good for us. And knowing how our Lord Jesus will vindicate us helps us, too.

Revelation 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

This terminology used in our confession, 1689.26.3

Galatians 3:26-29 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27
For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither
male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then
are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Romans 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that
circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one
inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter;
whose praise is not of men, but of God.