

## Doctrinal Studies: JEWS AND JUDAISM

### JEWS:

*RACIAL* – A person of the bloodline of Abraham

*RELIGIOUS* – A person not of the Jewish bloodline, but choosing to follow the religious precepts.

*REGENERATE* – A racial and/or religious Jew who has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

### JEWISH HISTORY:

Jewish ancestry is traced back to the Biblical patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who live in Canaan around the 18th century BCE (before Christ) from the tribe of Judah and Simeon and from Benjamin and Levi.

### JEWISH POPULATION:

16.7 Million prior to WWII

6 million killed – Holocaust

By 2010 – 13.4 million – less than 0.2% of the world population.

43% reside in Israel, 30% reside in the US.

Europe 1.5 million

Canada 1 million

## Doctrinal Studies: JEWS AND JUDAISM (Continued)

### JEWS:

Revelation 2:9 – *"I also know the slander from the source of those who allege that they are Jews, and they are not."*

Jews - Greek word from Hebrew

JEHUDI = citizens of Judah – from the tribe of Judah

### JUDAISM:

1. A monotheistic faith
2. Basic laws and tenets are derived from the *Torah* – first 5 books of the Bible
3. Emphasizes that all people are to do what is just and merciful
4. All people are to be treated with dignity and respect.
5. They serve God by study, prayer and by the observance of the commandments set forth in the *Torah*.
6. They say that it is by deeds, not creeds, that the world is judged.
7. Judaism is not an active missionary religion.
8. Jewish sacred writings consist of the books of the *Torah*, the *Prophets*, and the *Writings*.
9. Following the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD, Jewish religious scholars in the Land of Israel compiled the six volumes of the *MISHNAH* in order to record and preserve the canon of Jewish and religious legislation, laws and customs.
10. During the next five centuries the *MISHNAH* was complimented by the *GEMARA*, a work done by a rabbinical scholar in the Iran and in Babylon. These two works together formed what was known as the Talmud.

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JEWS AND JUDAISM (Continued)

JEWS - Three Groups:

- I. People who were born to a Jewish family regardless of whether or not they follow the religion.
- II. Those who have some Jewish ancestral background or lineage.
- III. People who have no Jewish background or lineage, but who have converted to Judaism and are followers of the Jewish religion.

Romans 9:1-8, a passage of...

*Observation*

*Interpretation*

*Application*

A striking observation about this passage: the "*Main things are plain things.*"

Romans 9 – Israel is the focus of our Heavenly Father, the Holy Spirit, and of the Apostle Paul in this passage. The Jews are very proud of their bloodline. They had concluded that being blood kin to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob somehow gave them a special "in" with God. This attitude blinded many Jews into a false sense of security of special sonship, based upon kinship.

God's Plan has always been the same; it is never based upon physical descent, but on the Total Work of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

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Read Romans 9:1-8, Galatians 3:7, and Genesis 16:15 – 17:1

Genesis 16:15 to Genesis 17:1 – these few verses contain the 13 silent years of Abraham's life, where he advanced to great maturity, when he became ready for the great blessing of the long-promised birth of his son Isaac. He had not been ready for this blessing until the beginning of Chapter 17.

Romans 9:13-15 – *Mercy* and *Compassion (or Pity)* in this passage are Greek words of entirely different meanings.

*Mercy* is addressed to faith, while *Pity* is addressed to arrogance.

God knew in the eternal ages past what would be happening in the thinking of Essau, and in the thinking of Jacob.

We are not to be in the business of trying to "figure God out".

God is never pleased when people choose to reject Him, but He does not make us robots; God does not push us around, and he has compassion toward the arrogant ones who choose to reject Him... but – *He gives us free choice.*