

"House of Israel "versus "Jews" in the New Testament.

Assertions/Conclusions of this Article

Some assert that the words Israel and Jew are referring to the northern and southern kingdoms when used in the NT. My personal viewpoint is that the terms are used quite generically much of the time and are not meant to show any distinction but instead are simply in reference to the peoples who are descendants of the man Jacob whom God named 'Israel'.

Supporting Evidence

This evidence will simply show that Paul refers to himself as both Jew and Israelite showing conclusively that the two terms ARE used interchangeably in the New testament.

1.1

Paul shows that he IS a "Jew";

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. Act 21:39

Paul has just said above in no uncertain terms that he is a JEW.
And here;

I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? so am I.

Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. (2Co 11:21-22 KJV)

Paul IS an ISRAELITE by his own admission AND he IS a JEW by his own admission.

This evidence shows us very clearly that the usage of "Jew" and "Israel(ite)" in the NT are not meant to be referring to the two separate kingdoms but that Paul uses these terms quite generically/interchangeably.

1.2

Here Paul shows conclusively that the term 'Jews' is used generically to speak about Israel as a whole nation

What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. (Rom 3:1-2 KJV)

The Law was given to Israel thru the prophet Moses. It was not just given to the house of Judah. So if 'Jews = ONLY the house of Judah' in every instance we have a terrible conflict in Pauls words above

2.0

Additional Supporting Evidence

Mat 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

IF Jesus is ONLY sent to the lost sheep of the House of Israel, then why is He preaching to "Jews" which are Judah ?

Clearly He has drawn MANY followers from the Jews (Judah) which conclusively shows that He CANNOT have meant that He has only come for the House of Isreal(ie nonJews), but is excluding Judah (Jews) entirely.

If He is 'not sent' except to the House of Isreal, and the House of Israel He speaks of is not including the Jews/Judah, then why is it that He has so many of the Jews who have accepted and are following Him ?

It stands to reason that the use of 'Jew' in the NT is not exclusively talking about Judah versus Israel, but that it IS used in such a manner as to be speaking about the entire Hebrew nation overall.