

Abraham the Assyrian and the Jew? By Rabbi Simon Altaf Hakohen

Written 28 June 2017

YHWH – The four letter sacred name of the Creator

Torah – First five books of the Bible written by Moses

HTHS – All quotes from the Hidden Truths Hebraic Scrolls Hebraic Study Scriptures unless otherwise specified. These can be obtained from Amazon Books Online.

The first Objection – How can Abraham be a Jew when He was not even born into Judah?

Second Objection – The Jews did not start until the Covenant formed in Mount Sinai when God brought all the Children of Israel to the Mountain to give them the Torah/Law/Instructions.

The Third Objection – Did not the Jews start after Isaac gave birth to Jacob and the children of Jacob had one tribe of Judah and hence they are called Jews?

Most people who claim to read the Bible and understand it reason like this that surely to say Abraham is a Jew is a gross mistake.

Abraham was not born into the territory of Judah but was born into the Assyrian Empire. Usually a Jew is someone through birth but today there is another accepted way to become Jewish or part of Israel, which is even accepted by biblical law (Torah) and Jewish law to have a conversion to become a Jew though discouraged. So a complete gentile can become Jewish by conversion no problem.

Can we prove that Abraham had a conversion into the Jewish faith? Yes, he was a convert into the Jewish faith which can be proved conclusively and historically.

Abraham converted into the faith of the Jews at a very early age so yes He became a Jew, a proselyte by conversion. This is indeed valid both halakhikly and biblically. It is well known that Abraham's father Terach worshipped false gods a testimony even born out by Yahoshua the son of Nun.

Yahushua (Joshua) 24:2 And Yahoshua said to all the people, Thus says YHWH Elohim of Y'sra'el, Your ahvot (fathers) dwelt on the other side of the river in old time, even Terach, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other mighty ones.

When and how did Abraham become a Jew and what about the objections above?

It is also important to note that Abraham lived with Noach for thirty nine years (Yashar 9:5) and learned the instructions of YHWH and His ways from Noah, Shem and others

down that line...

Yashar 9:5 And when Abram came out from the cave, he went to Noach and his son Shem, and he remained with them to learn the instruction of YHWH and his ways, and no man knew where Abram was, and Abram served Noach and Shem his son for a long time.

Nimrod wanted to kill Abraham when he was a baby so he was hid by his parents. After this event he was kept with Noah and Shem and brought up in Noah's household for 39 years with Torah instructions. Noah and Shem were both Abraham's teachers.

He was one of the most significant convert that we are told of for Noah who taught and proclaimed the true Torah gospel for 120 years of his life.

According to rabbinic Judaism a convert can also become Jewish either by conversion through Mikveh (baptism) or through brit milah or Circumcision Keritot 8b.

Historically 2000 years ago (Please note we do not believe the NT is inspired but we quote it for its history and context)

We see these discussions leading to arguments in the New Testament books where Paul with the Judeans who insisted in conversion by brit Milah (Circumcision) alone. Paul proposed to do it after baptism while these folks argued it should be done earlier.

Acts 15:1 And certain men which came down from Yahudah taught the brothers, and said, Except you be circumcised according to the custom of Musa (Moses), you cannot be saved...

We know that Abraham was the person given the covenant of circumcision asked to circumcise by God therefore according to rabbinic Judaism he would have legally become a Jew by conersion. The Jews already knew this and do not argue unlike others who lack understanding of the mechanics of the laws of YHWH Elohim.

We will deal with how could Abraham be a Jew prior to his grandson Jacob and the message at Mount Sinai.

The Midrash states: "If thy sons accept My Godhead [by undergoing circumcision] I shall be their God and bring them into the land; but if they do not observe My covenant in regard either to circumcision or to the Sabbath, they shall not enter the land of promise" (Midrash Genesis Rabbah xlv.).^[1]

Genesis 14:3 calls Abraham a Hebrew. An Ivrim means one who crossed over. He crossed over meaning converted from death into life, from gentile into Torah law.

Objection) How can Abraham be a Jew since he never lived in Judea but was from Iraq?

Answer) He was not from Iraq but South-Eastern Turkey. He lived in the ancient areas inhabited by Judah so by definition is a Jew and Judean by living in the land also because scripture traces his lineage from Hebron Gen 12:8 and not Assyria. One thing to note that in the Middle-Eastern cultures people are either noted for where they live or what they do as a trade. Such as the name Israel came from Jacob, while one important factor in Abraham's name is that his name means before his conversion "exalted father." Why call him exalted father? This is because Abraham was a prince or a noble man, his ancestors came from India, traversed Africa and situated in Turkey, the son of the high priest Terach. Terach was the high priest to the South-Eastern Turkic deity that both his father and Nimrod worshipped. Abraham was in line to be the high priest but he refused and started to follow YHWH the God of Israel instead.

Yeshayahu (Isa) 51:2 Look to Avraham your father, and to Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and **Increased** him, and made him great.

Objection: Can you prove this precedence of becoming Jewish through another man other than Abraham one who became a Jew by conversion and was acceptable to God?

Answer) Can we find precedence in the Tanak laws for someone else who also became a similar convert and was not born into Judah or the tribe? Yes, Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the man who inherited the regions of the West Bank.

He was a convert into Judaism but was not born a Jew. Note his father is called Jephunneh, the Kenezite in Numbers 32:12 but the Torah indeed tells you that he converted if you follow the lineage and the area of his settlement.

We'Devar (Numbers) 32:12 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite

But in Numbers 13:6 he is called from the tribe of Yahudah.

We'Devar (Numbers) 13:6 Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh

We find this is clearly established in the Torah as a precedence and legal rule by Israel that by conversion if a complete foreigner to Israel would be qualified to be called a Jew.

We note the Patrilineal precedent set by Ezra 2:59-63 of who was a Jew through the father and they were put aside until a High Priest in the future would stand with the Urim and Thummim to establish judgement.

In other words in all matters of judgment only the Kohanim had the right to issue forth judgement.

So the tribal lineage is by father and we agree. Moreover Torah law states that a person who is a convert into Judaism irrespective of his mother or father will be treated and called a Jew because the precedent was set by YHWH for Abraham whose mother and

father were not born into Israel but started Israel, isn't that beautiful? The conversions are open to all peoples.

Objection) How can he be Jewish since the designation or the term Jew did not even exist yet?

Answer) This may come as a shock to you but even Noah was a Jew but how can that be? Because today people look at the term Jew as a race thing but in the ancient Hebrew the term means "one who praises YHWH, the God who made himself known to Abraham and all others." The term Jew really means one who is consecrated to God. Any person who reverts or converts into Israel becomes consecrated to God and by right should be called a Jew! It is nothing to do with Mount Sinai, The sons of Jacob or anything else.

My question to you all did Noah praise YHWH or not? If he did then he is also a Jew because that is what the term identifies in reality. The easy way to understand this is to see that in the east people are defined by their employment so if someone is a carpenter then his whole family is identified as a carpenter's family. We do find this in ancient Hebrew culture too even in the Renewed Covenant...

Matthew 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son?

The same way if your father in the East was a shoemaker they will call him by that name and the whole family will be known with that title. Both in India and Pakistan today it is very common for someone to be known by their trade. Someone in India making paper will be known as kagaz wala (paper maker), someone making glass will be known as glass wala (glass maker). So a trade name is usually appended to someone even in 2017. A shoemaker is called Mochi, a farmer is called a Kisan (farmer), a car maker is known as a mechanic (car mistry).

If you went searching for people in the east without their trade it will be very hard to find them so people look for the trader by his name and trade. Someone who sells fish will be called Machi wala (fish seller).

The term Le'Yahud in the oldest and ancient designation of Hebrew is simply to say one who pays homage to Yehowah or raises his arm to the Light in adoration. If you do then you could also be called Jewish by that designation. Maybe you are not physically born into Judah but certainly there is the spiritual birth. In scripture we find some people were called Jews when they were not born into the tribe of Judah such as Mordecai.

Esther 2:5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Yahudim (Jew), whose name was Mordecai, the son of Yair, the son of Shim'i, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;

Note he was living in Iran and not born in the tribe of Judah nor in Israel at that time but was still called a Jew, it was highly likely that he was second generation, while Esther was most likely third generation and not taken there through captivity. This proves my point that anyone can be called a Jew who worships YHWH and accepts the Covenant

of circumcision and of course by extension the Torah and it makes absolutely no difference which part of the world you live in or come from.

Sha'ul also known as Paul in the New Testament was called a Jew but we know he was from the tribe of Benjamin and brought up in Tarsus but only went to Jerusalem for rabbinic education.

And again with Aquilas

Acts 18:2 And found a certain Yahudi named Aquilas, born in Pontus

And with Apollos

Acts 18:24 And a certain Yahudi named Apollos, born at Alexandria,

Another objection raised by the unlearned in Torah is that the word Hebrew Ivri and Jew is not synonymous.

The truth is that the term Jew and Hebrew is 100% synonymous. Abraham was both called a Hebrew and was also a Jew by conversion so don't let anyone tell you Abraham was not Jewish and rob you of your inheritance. If you have converted into the Jewish faith you are 100% Jewish irrespective even if you were born in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Likewise myself could be written as certain man born in Lahore in Pakistan named Simon Altaf a Jew, the son of so and so... And indeed I was born there and ancestry of Levite from Iran. YHWH knew I was but I had to find this truth much later after my conversion when He called me out and I realised though born into a Muslim household I was not a Muslim by ancestry...Likewise many people today belong to Israel and the God of Israel is calling you back, heed his voice.

May YHWH bless you and keep you, those who obey him.

Rabbi Simon Altaf Hakohen

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For books please go to our website above and other articles.

For video teachings on utube www.youtube.com/simalt

[\[1\] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conversion_to_Judaism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conversion_to_Judaism)