

What is a Hebrew?

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What does the word “Hebrew” mean?

The **Biblical term** Ivri (עברי; **Hebrew means** to traverse or pass over or cross over.

Abraham was a Hebrew because he “crossed over” the Euphrates River, going from Babylon to Canaan

King James Version

Joshua 24:2-3

² And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

³ And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.

New International Version

Joshua 24:2-3

² Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshipped other gods. ³ But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac,

The word “Hebrew” is NOT synonymous with the word “Jew.” The word “Jew” is not in the Bible. It has been written in by the translators. The word is “Judean” and refers to those who worshipped the true God in the temple in Jerusalem in JUDEA, vs the nations (pagans or heathens) who worshipped many pagan gods. The Bible defines the “nations” as “those who know not God” (1 Thess 4:5).

The word “nations” is almost always mistranslated as the word “Gentiles” – another word that does not appear in the Bible. It has been falsely “written in” by the translators.

The Judeans (mistranslated “Jews”) were Christians: “**believers**” in the one true God.

The nations (pagans, heathens, mistranslated “Gentiles”) were the **Unbelievers!**

Abraham became a “Hebrew” (but NOT a “Jew”) by crossing over the River Euphrates when he left his home in Babylon (Ur of the Chaldees) and moved to Canaan at God’s direction.

Abraham was a Hebrew because he “crossed over” from being a pagan (in Babylon) to becoming a Christian, one who worships the one true God.

Genesis 12:1-7

Now the Lord had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country,

From your family

And from your father’s house,

To a land that I will show you.

²I will make you a great nation;

I will bless you

And make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,

And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And

Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Then Abram

took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they

had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they

departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of

Canaan. ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the

terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.

⁷Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give

this land.” And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Abraham was a Hebrew because he “crossed over” both physically (over the Euphrates River) and spiritually (by leaving paganism and becoming a Christian).

Abraham was a Hebrew – but Abraham was NOT a “Jew.”

Abraham was a Christian, because He was looking forward to the coming of the Messiah: Jesus Christ!