

What is a Jew?

The question has been raised, What is a Jew? Is the Jew a term entirely different in its general relationships and usage from the term Christian? In answer it may be pointed out that there is much that is analogous in these two terms. Thus in the proper == etymological sense a Jew is one who is a descendant of Judah and therefore a member of the tribe of Judah. However, as commonly used the term Jew came very early to mean anyone who was a descendant of Jacob regardless of which of the twelve tribes he belonged to. Since the descendants of Jacob were given certain definite laws, and certain definite promises and expected to maintain a certain === to be in a certain relationship to God, the term is used in the NT in a number of cases to mean one who himself enjoys this relationship to God. This is brought out by Paul's statement that not everyone who is called == "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who 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" (Rom. 2:28,29). And also it is used in Rev.3:9 where it refers to "them of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie."

as widely
Similarly the term Christian ~~XXXXXXXX~~ used would mean anyone who lives in a Christian country or is not a Moslem or a Hindu or a member of some group that considers itself as opposed to Christianity. In a narrower sense a Christian would mean anyone who belongs to a church that calls itself a Christian church. Among fundamentalists the word is commonly used in a far narrower sense than either of these. We feel that we are quite correct in restricting the term Christian to those who have been ^{born} ~~born~~ again ~~xxxx~~ through the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit and have received Christ into their hearts as Saviour. It is necessary to know the context of the statement in order to be sure exactly which meaning is intended either for either term Jew or Christian