

WHO ARE THE SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN?

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This term SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN can only be found in two verses. These have to do with the messages to the seven churches in Revelation.

Rev 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Rev 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and [I know] the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but [are] the SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN.

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast [some] of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Rev 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, [which is] new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and [I will write upon him] my new name.

In these scriptures Jesus is addressing the Churches of God. So the first question to answer is, Are these Jews in some way antagonistic to the church of God and seeking to harm the Christians. The only thing that is said is that they say they are Jews and are not. There is nothing antagonistic or threatening in that statement unless you want to imagine it.

In the first message Jesus says that he knows the works of the Church of Smyrna as opposed to the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews but are not. Blasphemy is speaking evil of something good. For example Mat 12 shows the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Here blasphemy is shown as saying that you are something that is good when it is not true.

There is a similar judgment in the message to the first church in Ephesus against those who SAY they are apostles and are not.

Rev 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

So just like saying you are an apostle is to say you are something good, the above scriptures show that to say you are a Jew is to say you are something good.

Romans 2 shows how being a Jew is a good thing. The Jews could rightly boast that they are the ones who know the true God.

Rom 2:17 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,

Rom 2:18 And knowest [his] will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;

Rom 2:19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,

Rom 2:20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.

Romans 2 goes on to say that if they teach these good things out of God's law they should also do them

Rom 2:21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?

Rom 2:22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?

Rom 2:23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

After this introduction Romans 2 concludes with showing the difference between a 'true Jew' and a 'false Jew'. The 'true Jew' is faithful to his circumcision and keeps the commandments of God in his heart whereas the 'false Jew' only appears righteous outwardly because he is circumcised, but he is actually breaking the commandments and living in sin.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither [is that] circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

Rom 2:29 But he [is] a Jew, which 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.

This must be the meaning of the Jews in Smyrna and Philadelphia. They were calling themselves (true) Jews, but were not.

Were there any 'true Jews' in Jesus' day?

Luk 1:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife [was] of the daughters of Aaron, and her name [was] Elisabeth.

Luk 1:6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Just like in the news where you hear more about the lawbreakers than about good citizens, in the Bible you hear more about the false Jews who had murder in their heart and were persecuting Jesus than about the true Jews who were worshippers of God and living according to his will. And because so many Jews did not live up to their circumcision but broke God's laws and were also infected by Pharisaical teachings, we tend to think that being a Jew at all is evil. But this is not how God views it. Otherwise Jesus would not have said, "They call themselves Jews (something good) and are not.

Romans tells about the advantage in being a Jew

Rom 3:1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit [is there] of circumcision?

Rom 3:2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

It is because the Jews preserved the oracles that we have God's word today. Jesus was able to live a sinless life because the Jews provided synagogues for the Sabbaths and holy days to be kept. In the early New Testament days, Jews, Gentiles and Christians were instructed out of God's law in the synagogues every Sabbath day.

Here God points out that he is no respecter of persons. Jews are capable of doing well, and if they do they will receive from God glory, honor and peace.

Rom 2:9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

Rom 2:10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

Those who have long fed their minds a diet of conspiracy theories and who believe that the Jews wrote the Protocols of Zion, an evil plot to control the world, put all Jews in the same category – evil. If all Jews were evil the above verse would have read this way:

Rev 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and [I know] the blasphemy of the Jews, who [are] the synagogue of Satan.

Here is a quote from a believer in the Protocols of Zion telling about who the Synagogue of Satan is:

"But also, there are those in the world who have a vision of their own world government, of their own kingdom. These are the elite that run the world; they are called the 'Synagogue of Satan.'"

Instead of looking at what the Bible SAYS and what it DOESN'T SAY about the Synagogue of Satan (these are rules for Bible study that this author knows because he wrote them), he has envisioned, and imagined an entire world kingdom run by elite Jews who are plotting to rule the world under Satan as the meaning of the 'Synagogue of Satan'. But the scriptures do not give this meaning at all to the Synagogue of Satan.

Notice first what the Bible DOESN'T SAY. These Jews of the Synagogue of Satan are not said to be persecuting or harming the churches of God in any way. They are not said to be deceiving the world. They are not said to be busy developing plots to take over the world. This is what the Bible DOES SAY. The only sin that Jesus lays on them, and he says it twice, is that they say they are Jews when they are not.

So what did Jesus mean by this? It is not logical to think that the Jews of the Synagogue of Satan were people outside the Church of God. Why? Let's put ourselves in the place of the congregation in Smyrna. If there were a synagogue of Jews around the block from our congregation who call themselves Jews and are not, what difference would that make to us? This would in no way affect or bother our Sabbath-keeping would it? We would most likely not even know about them. Only God would know. So what would be the point of Jesus mentioning them here in the messages to his churches? It would seem more logical to think that these Jews of the Synagogue of Satan were within the Smyrna and Philadelphia Churches appearing as righteous members, (as true Jews) but actually serving Satan. When you consider that Jesus as well as his disciples were at first attending synagogues of the Jews every Sabbath day and also that Jesus himself never used the term 'Christian', his saying that there are those who call themselves Jews and are not could simply be his way of teaching the concept of calling yourself a Christian or a servant of God when you are not.

To these Jews who were serving Satan by their living in some kind of sin the Church to them would be the Synagogue of Satan, not the Church of God.

Rom 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

1Jo 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1Jo 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

The principle certainly does apply that you can be in the Church of God, say you are a Jew or a Christian and yet be a false Jew (false Christian) serving Satan. We know that this is the meaning of the parable of the wheat and the tares - true and false Christians growing together until the harvest.

So you can IMAGINE the Synagogue of Satan Jews as elite Jews who are plotting to take over the world, but the Bible does not say that of them. The Bible does not say that the Synagogue of Satan Jews in Smyrna are conspiring with Satan to have the brethren put in prison for ten years. The Bible does not say that the Synagogue of Satan Jews in the Philadelphia church are helping Satan set up the 'hour of temptation' that shall come upon all the world. To be honest with the scriptures, the only thing you can say about the Synagogue of Satan Jews is that they call themselves Jews and are not. Therefore they must be living in some form of unrepentant sin.

CONCLUSION

Conspiracy theories are the enemy of truth because the light of truth does not shine behind the scenes where the conspiracy is supposedly taking place so that we can clearly see what is back there. God will expose all hidden things in his time (1Cor 4:5) but until he does, we can only suppose, imagine and assume. The problem with suppositions, imaginations and assumptions is that they are not truth until they are manifested by the light. Just as we must understand the

difference between the commandments of God and the traditions of men, we must understand the difference between truth (fact) and theories (speculations) and not confuse the two.

Conspiracy theories are the enemy of righteous judgment of our neighbor because our accused neighbor is already condemned as guilty. It is therefore unnecessary to listen to his side of the story, (one of the rules of righteous judgment) or allow the accused to defend himself. The attitude is: 'There is no need to read material proving that the Protocols of Zion is a fabrication. The Jews just invented this material.'

Conspiracy theories are the enemy of righteous judgment of our neighbor because they condemn the supposed conspirator as guilty without adequate proof of his guilt. Since the conspiracy takes place behind the scenes, no actual proof of it is available. So outward signs are accepted as proof. 'Look at all the Jews who are in positions of power. This proves they are guilty of conspiracy.' 'The economy is failing, so the Jews are conspiring to make it happen.'

More fuel utilized by conspiracy theories is evil motives that are imputed to the conspirators' every deed. This makes whatever he does appear evil whether it is evil or not. 'The Jews' motive for building the Holocaust Museum is to lay a guilt trip on us.'

Finally, the fuel of the false interpretation of the 'Synagogue of Satan' in the word of God is added to all this other evidence to make it look like God himself is supporting their guilt.

This is how the prosecution has set up their case against the Jews.

We all know that the evil Beast power is coming. But it is presumptuous to point fingers of accusation at who we suppose it is. When the Beast is actually in world power doing the things the scriptures say he will do like make war on the saints and cause all men to worship his image or die, then we will KNOW who the Beast is in truth.

Also there is no doubt that those in power use their positions to influence evil things that they believe in. But this includes ANYONE in power, not just Jews. It includes mothers, fathers, teachers, business managers. It includes religious people who control the pulpit and preach their own ideas that are not of God.

Remember that Satan is the great accuser and conspiracy theories are a training method of his to help us learn how to accuse others as he loves to do and break the second great commandment of loving your neighbor as yourself. May the Lord save us from this evil and malicious mind. Pro 11:9 An hypocrite with [his] mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.