

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- ✧ What were the main events in the early history of the Israelites?
- ✧ How did the Jews view their relationship with God and how has this influenced their history?
- ✧ What moral and ethical ideas did the prophets teach and how do these laws continue to hold relevance today?
- ✧ Why were the Jews persecuted throughout history and what has been their lasting legacy?

Judaism and its History



5

The Roots of Judaism

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The Bare Essentials of Judaism



- ✧ 3500 years old
- ✧ Began in the Middle East
- ✧ Founded by Abraham and Moses
- ✧ Parent faith of Christianity
- ✧ Jews believe that there is only one God
- ✧ Jews believe that the Jewish People are specially chosen by God
- ✧ Jews worship in Synagogues, their spiritual leaders are called Rabbis
- ✧ The Jewish Holy book is the Hebrew Bible, or Tanakh, especially the first 5 books, called **The Torah**
- ✧ 12 million followers, most in Israel and the USA
- ✧ 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust in an attempt to wipe out Judaism



Introduction to Judaism

- ✧ Around 2,000 years ago a non-Jew told Hillel, a famous Jewish teacher, that he would convert to Judaism if Hillel could teach him the whole of the Torah in the time he could balance on one leg.
- ✧ Hillel replied... "What is hateful to yourself, do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Torah; the rest is just commentary. Go and study it."



The Numbers Worldwide – Approximately 20 million

United States 5,800,000	United Kingdom 300,000
Israel 4,847,000	Argentina 250,000
France 600,000	Brazil 130,000
Russia 550,000	South Africa 106,000
Ukraine 400,000	Australia 100,000
Canada 360,000	

The largest number in a city outside of Israel –
New York 1,750,000



Who is a Jew?

- ✧ Jews believe that a Jew is someone who is the child of a Jewish mother, and who has not adopted another faith.
- ✧ Someone who isn't born a Jew can convert to Judaism, but it is not easy to do so.

INTRODUCTORY TIMELINE: Early History of the Israelites



2000 B.C.—Abraham migrates from Mesopotamia to Canaan, where he founds the Israelite nation.

Famine forces Israelites to migrate to Egypt, where they are enslaved.

Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt.

Israelites enter Canaan, the promised land.

1000 B.C.—David unites Israelites into kingdom of Israel.

Solomon builds capital at Jerusalem, but his rule inspires revolts.

922 B.C.—Kingdom weakens after splitting into Israel and Judah.

722 B.C.—Assyrians conquer Israel.

586 B.C.—Babylonians capture Judah – Babylonian Captivity.

Persians conquer Babylon and free the Jews from captivity.



Why study the early history of
Jews, using the Old Testament as
historical text?

✧ **QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION:**

✧ **What is the factual truth, proven through historical or archaeological evidence? Here's what we know so far...**



Here's what we know so far...

☆ **Here are some examples:**

- ☆ 1) The discovery of the Ebla archive in northern Syria in the 1970s has shown the Biblical writings concerning the Patriarchs to be viable. Documents written on clay tablets from around 2300 B.C. demonstrate that personal and place names in the Patriarchal accounts are genuine.
- ☆ 2) The Hittites were once thought to be a Biblical legend, until their capital and records were discovered at Bogazkoy, Turkey.
- ☆ 3) Many thought the Biblical references to Solomon's wealth were greatly exaggerated. Recovered records from the past show that wealth in antiquity was concentrated with the king and Solomon's prosperity was entirely feasible.
- ☆ 4) It was once claimed there was no Assyrian king named Sargon as recorded in Isaiah 20:1, because this name was not known in any other record. Then, Sargon's palace was discovered in Khorsabad, Iraq. The very event mentioned in Isaiah 20, his capture of Ashdod, was recorded on the palace walls. What is more, fragments of a stela memorializing the victory were found at Ashdod itself.
- ☆ 5) Another king who was in doubt was Belshazzar, king of Babylon, named in Daniel 5. The last king of Babylon was Nabonidus according to recorded history. Tablets were found showing that Belshazzar was Nabonidus' son who served as coregent in Babylon. Thus, Belshazzar could offer to make Daniel "third highest ruler in the kingdom" (Dan. 5:16) for reading the handwriting on the wall, the highest available position. Here we see the "eye-witness" nature of the Biblical record, as is so often brought out by the discoveries of archaeology.
- ☆ 6) Canaan is mentioned in the Bible and most historians agree to its existence, including the tribes of Canaan unified by King Solomon.



OPEN FOR DISCUSSION, IF WE DARE...

- ☆ **Note:** Please be careful not to offend anyone. Only intelligent, logical, and fact-based arguments will be accepted.
- ☆ **Q.** In your opinion, how useful is the Bible as a historical text in the study of the Hebrews?
- ☆ **Archaeological evidence:** Example—Is the "Wailing Wall" really the remnants of the Temple of Solomon, destroyed by the Romans and others?

The Wailing Wall



My solution: Combine the histories!

The history of the Hebrews...

According to historical sources and the Bible!



The Five Books of the Pentateuch (Torah or Old Testament)

- ✧ Genesis
- ✧ Exodus
- ✧ Leviticus
- ✧ Numbers
- ✧ Deuteronomy



The oldest surviving manuscript of the complete Bible is the *Codex Leningradensis* which dates to 1008 C.E.



Genesis: The Creation Story

Chapter 1: God creates the world in six days, and takes the seventh day (Sunday) off to rest.



Raphael's *God Separates Light from Darkness*, 1517



Genesis: The Creation Story— Paradise Gained

*Interpret the symbolism in the masterpiece.



Detail of the Creation of Adam from Michelangelo's The Sistine Chapel ceiling, 1509-1512



Genesis: Adam and Eve— Paradise Lost



The serpent tempts Eve to take the forbidden fruit.



Eve takes the fruit and the first bite, the first human sin.



Paradise Lost



Lucas Cranach, the Elder's *Adam and Eve*, 1533.

God punishes Adam and Eve by banishing them from paradise and forcing them to experiencing sin, suffering, and moral choice.



Genesis: Noah and the Flood— The World's First Disaster Story?

- ✧ According to Genesis, God decided to punish mankind for its sins by causing a devastating flood for 40 days and 40 nights.
- ✧ God instructed Noah to build an ark in order to save a male and female of every species.
- ✧ Do you remember how Genesis compares with other disaster stories, such as the Sumerian epic Gilgamesh? Which story came first? Did one culture borrow from another?

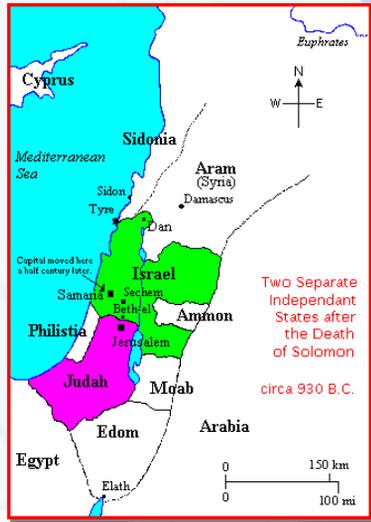


History



The First Commonwealth

- 2100 BCE The Patriarchs
 - Abraham – Isaac – Jacob – Joseph
 - Early Hebrews (Jews) enslaved in Egypt
- 1300 BCE Exodus from Egypt
 - Moses and the Ten Commandments
- 1200 BCE Period of the Judges
- 1050 BCE The United Kingdom
 - Saul, David, Solomon
- 922 BCE Divided Kingdom
- 722 BCE Fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- 587 BCE Fall of Jerusalem, exile to Babylon



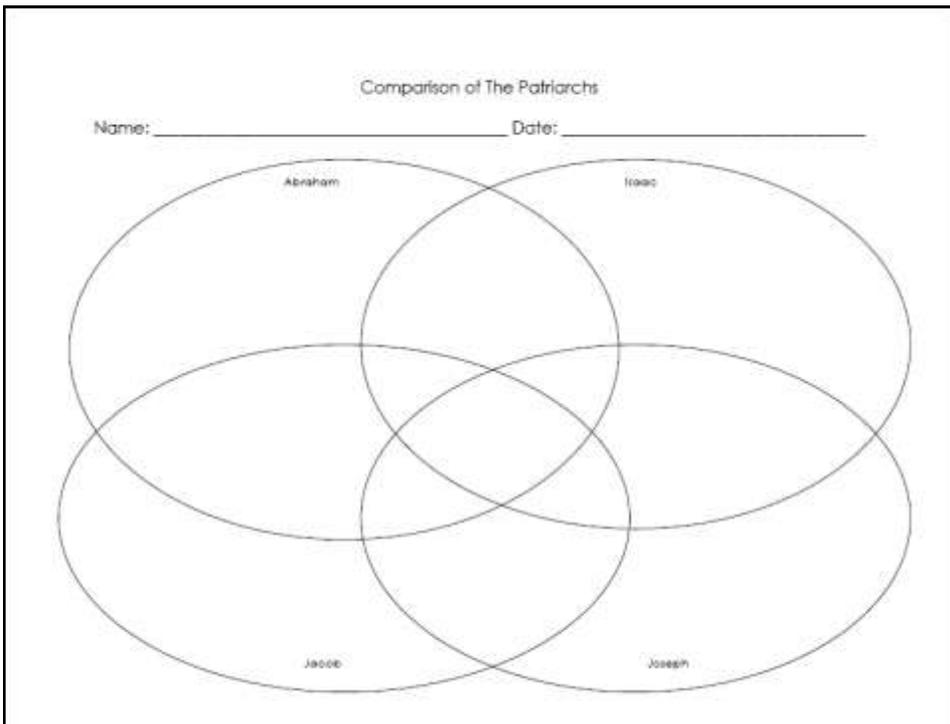
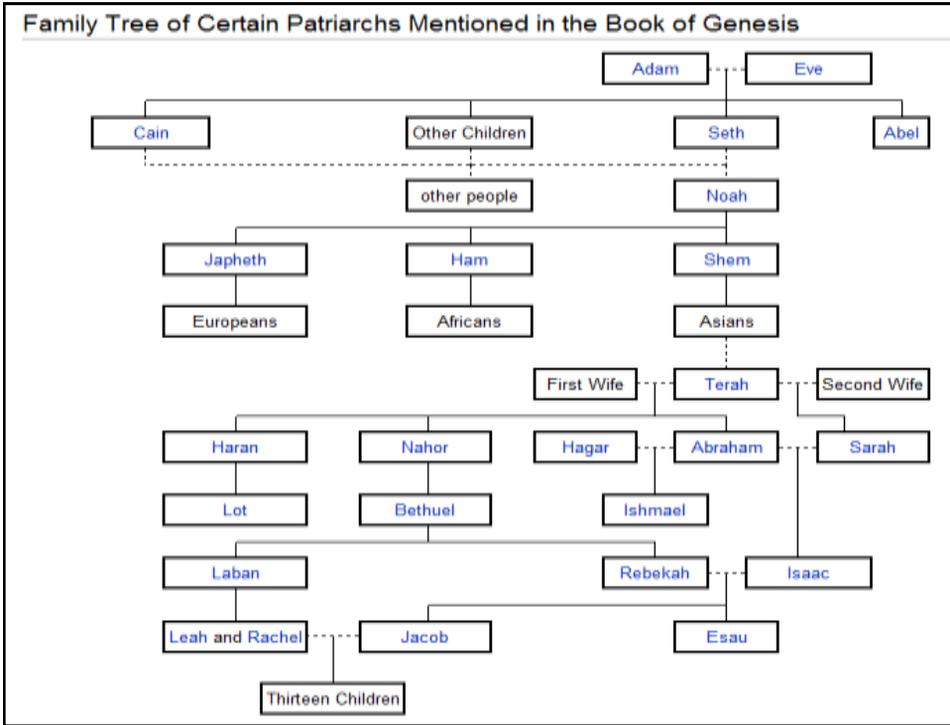


The Beginning of the History of the Hebrews

- ✧ The Biblical account of the history of the Hebrews (later called Israelites and then Jews) begins with the patriarchal clan leader **Abraham**, called in Genesis 14:15 "the Hebrew" (Habiru).
- ✧ About 1800 B.C. Abraham led his people out of Ur in Sumer, where they eventually arrived in the land of Canaan, later called Palestine.
- ✧ About 1700 B.C., driven by famine, some Hebrews followed Abraham's great-grandson **Joseph**, son of Israel (also called Jacob), into Egypt.
- ✧ Joseph's rise to power in Egypt is attributed to the presence of the largely Semitic Hyksos, who had conquered Egypt about 1720 B.C.
- ✧ Following the expulsion of the Hyksos by the pharaohs of the Eighteenth Dynasty, the Hebrews were enslaved by the Egyptians.



The child Joseph receives his famous multicolor robes from his father.





The Story of Moses and the Exodus—c.a. 1300 B.C.E.

- ✧ Raised by the Pharaoh's family, **Moses** was actually a Hebrew and a descendant of Abraham and Joseph.
- ✧ When Moses witnessed the harsh treatment of the Hebrew slaves by the Egyptians, he fled to the desert and wandered.
- ✧ He encountered a burning bush, and he hears the voice of God for the first time. God tells him he will lead the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt.



The Story of Moses and the Exodus—c.a. 1300 B.C.E.

- ✧ God sends a series of plagues upon the Egyptians in order to pressure the Pharaoh Ramses to free the Hebrew slaves.



Plagues Versus Egyptian Gods			
Name: _____		Date: _____	
Directions: Fill in the remaining columns with the plagues and the significance of God's defeat over that particular Egyptian god or temple priests.			
Plague #	Plague	Egyptian god, idol, or temple priest target	Significance
1		Nile River—the giver of Life and the gift of Egypt	
2		Isis—fertility goddess	
3		Seth—earth god	
4		Beelzebub—prince of the air	
5		Apis—sacred bull	
6		Medical shamans	
7		Weather shamans	
8		Agriculture shamans	
9		Amen-Re—most favored god and considered the most powerful.	
10		The first born was dedicated to God—was considered the favor of God or to the Egyptians, their gods	

Exodus

The [escape of the Israelites from their captivity in Egypt](#).

[Moses](#) was the [leader](#) of the Hebrew Exodus. The story goes that the Hebrew God had to curse Egypt with 10 plagues in order for the Pharaoh (Ramses II) to free the Israelites.

10 Plagues

The Nile turned to blood

Frogs

Fleas and Lice

Flies

Epidemic disease which exterminated the Egyptian livestock.

Boils

Storm (Hail)

Locusts

Darkness

Death of the first born son

(Passover Holiday comes from this event)

According to the *Torah*, the Israelites disobeyed God and wandered the desert for 40 years before reaching the holy land.





The Story of Moses and the Exodus—c.a. 1300 B.C.E.

- ✧ Tired of the plagues, Ramses agreed to free the Hebrews; Moses began to lead his people towards the Red Sea.
- ✧ Ramses then changed his mind and pursued Moses and the Hebrews.
- ✧ Moses parted the Red Sea and led his people across. When Ramses attempted to cross, Moses caused the Sea to swallow up Pharaoh's army.





A map of the traditional route of the 'Exodus' from Egypt. The map shows the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the south. The route starts in Egypt, passing through GOSHEN, Etham, and the Wilderness of Shur. It then leads to the SINAI Peninsula, with key locations like Rephidim and SINAI marked. From there, the route goes through Kadesh bamea, Ezion-geber, and the Land of Midian, eventually reaching CANAAN. Other regions shown include AMMON, MOAB, EDOM, and Arabia.

A map of the traditional route of the 'Exodus' from Egypt.



The Story of Moses and the Exodus—1300 B.C.E.

✧ Moses leads the Hebrews to Mount Sinai, where God gives him the **Ten Commandments**, also known as the Covenant, the sacred laws for both Judaism and Christianity.

Have no other gods	Do not commit adultery
Do not misuse the name of God	Do not steal
Keep the Sabbath holy	Do not kill
Honor your parents	Do not covet your neighbor's wife
Do not murder	Do not covet your neighbor's goods

Are the Ten Commandments still relevant today?



Religious and Ceremonial Laws		
Name: _____ Date: _____		
Read what the Scriptures say about each law and write the application it would have for Christians today.		
Law regarding:	Reference	Application Today
Other gods	Exodus 22:20 Exodus 23:13	
Idols	Deut. 5:8-10	
Making gods	Exodus 34:17 Lev. 26:1	
Wooden Pillars	Deut. 16:21,22	
Sacrificing children	Lev. 20:1-5, 18:21	
Separation from Pagan society	Deut. 14:1,2	
Mourning practices	Lev. 29:27,28	
Avoid enticements	Deut. 12:29-31	
Solicitors of idolatry	Deut. 15:6-11	
Idolatrous cities	Deut. 18:12-18	
Punishment for idol worshipers	Deut. 17:2-7	
One place of Worship	Deut. 12:1-15, 17-22, 24-28	



Exodus: History Writ Large (55:30)

"**Storied Liberation**" examines the ancient quest for freedom that took place in the burning sands of Egypt and its long-ranging influence. "**Ramses' Biblical Role**" looks at evidence that suggests this great Egyptian king was the unnamed pharaoh in the Book of **exodus**.



Pay attention! A video quiz follows!

Exodus: History Writ Large

1. **Historians and archeologists have proved that Joseph, a Semitic slave, could not have become prime minister of Egypt.**
(Check only one answer)
 - true
 - false

2. **Which is the correct order for the changes Moses underwent in his lifetime?**
(Check only one answer)
 - free man, leader, slave
 - free man, slave, leader
 - leader, slave, free man
 - slave, free man, leader

3. **Which of the following was mentioned as a possible explanation of the ten plagues?**
+ (Check only one answer)
 - Moses used various resources to create the plagues himself.
 - The plagues could have been effects of a large earthquake.
 - God sent the plagues as a warning and punishment for Pharaoh.
 - The order of the plagues follows the natural cycle of the Amazon River.

4. **The main message conveyed by the scholars about Exodus is that _____.**
(Check only one answer)
- it did not really happen
 - it happened exactly as the Bible describes it
 - it has significant meaning whether or not it is factual
 - it can be explained by natural, more believable occurrences
5. **What did Ramses I- father, Seti, build to show the greatness of Egypt and himself?**
(Check only one answer)
- a mask
 - a palace
 - a temple
 - a pyramid
6. **Why did Ramses build Abu Simbel?**
(Check only one answer)
- to honor his father
 - to intimidate the Nubians
 - to give his family a large home
 - to give Egyptians a place to worship
7. **Why was Ramses unprepared for the Hittites I- attack at Kadesh?**
(Check only one answer)
- He did not intend to go to war.
 - Egypt did not have a large infantry.
 - He was tricked into leaving the majority of his army behind.
 - The Hittites I- weapons were more advanced than he had suspected.

8. **Why wasn't Pharaoh troubled by any of the first nine plagues?**
(Check only one answer)
- He did not believe in God.
 - The plagues did not destroy his home.
 - His magicians could impose plagues of their own.
 - The events all could have been caused by natural factors.
9. **Clues from the hieroglyphs in Ramses I- temple suggest that Ramses _____.**
(Check only one answer)
- drowned in the Sea of Reeds
 - was the pharaoh during the Exodus
 - led the Egyptians to victory in Kadesh
 - believed in one God, just like the Israelites
10. **Where is the mummy of Ramses the Great today?**
(Check only one answer)
- missing
 - in a museum in Israel
 - in the Valley of the Kings
 - in the possession of tomb raiders



A QUESTION WHICH HAS BEEN FOUGHT OVER FOR CENTURIES:

- ✧ Did the Israelites really found the nation of Israel (Palestine), as the Old Testament states? Did God specially choose them to inhabit this “promised land”?
- ✧ Whether the answer is “yes” or “no,” so what? What implications does this topic have for peoples of the Middle East today?



A Nomadic Existence

By the thirteenth century B.C.E the Israelites inhabited the hill country on both sides of the Jordan river, either as settlers or nomads.

- Their history was dominated by warfare, perhaps because the land was poor for agriculture making the economy frail.
- Even periods of strong centralized rule were marked by political coups.





The Old Testament and Ancient Israel

- ✧ The society was governed on the basis of religious law that had been handed down to Moses by God.
- ✧ Old Testament Israel had a **patriarchal** family structure which was reinforced and institutionalized by its laws.
- ✧
 - ✧ The husband had absolute authority
 - ✧ Patrilineal descent
 - ✧ Patrilocal residence

Only when Hebrew women married and became the mothers of children did they gain any authority over other people.



Ancient Israel and Judaism

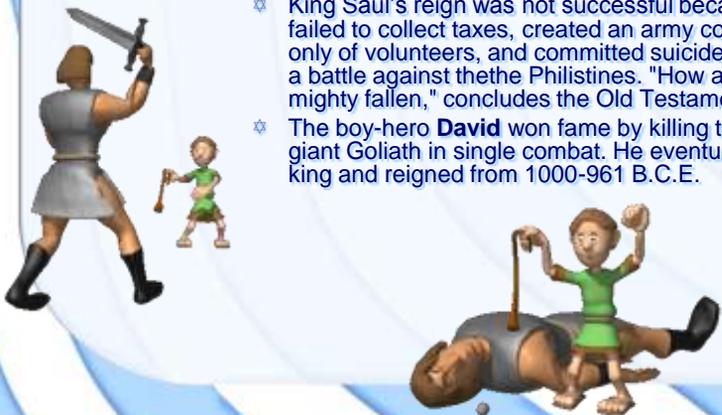
The **Judaism of ancient Israel** is the culture that contributed the Bible, perhaps the most influential book of the last three millennia, to western civilization.





The Kingdom of Israel

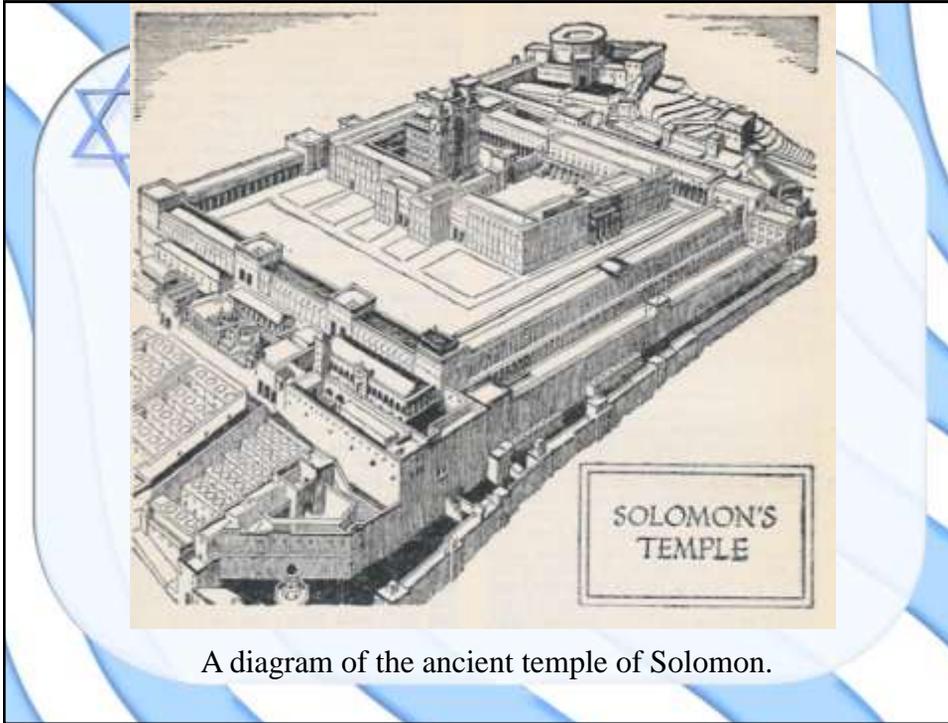
- ✧ The descendants of the Hebrew slaves eventually settled in Palestine (Israel).
- ✧ **Saul** became the first king of Israel by 1050 B.C.E.
- ✧ King Saul's reign was not successful because he failed to collect taxes, created an army composed only of volunteers, and committed suicide after losing a battle against the Philistines. "How are the mighty fallen," concludes the Old Testament.
- ✧ The boy-hero **David** won fame by killing the Philistine giant Goliath in single combat. He eventually became king and reigned from 1000-961 B.C.E.



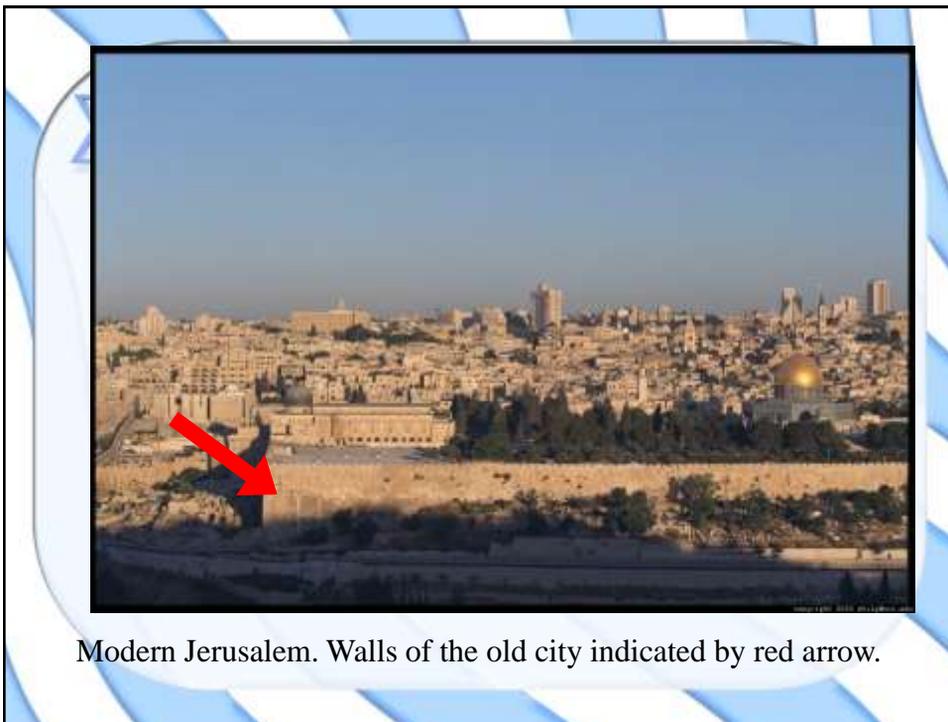

The Achievements of King David

- ✧ David restricted the Philistines to a narrow coastal strip but became the ruler of the largest state in the ancient history of the area, stretching from the Euphrates to the Gulf of Aqaba.
- ✧ David also conquered Jerusalem from the Canaanites.
- ✧ He deposited the recovered Ark of the Covenant in his royal chapel, to which he attached a priesthood.
- ✧ The priests in turn proclaimed that God had made a special covenant with David as "the Lord's servant," and with the throne of David through all generations to come.





A diagram of the ancient temple of Solomon.



Modern Jerusalem. Walls of the old city indicated by red arrow.

The Western (Wailing) Wall in Jerusalem

The most important of all Jewish monuments

It is the remnants of the Temple of Solomon after its destruction by the Romans in 70 A.D.



What were the causes of the decline of the Kingdom of Israel?

- ✧ The price of Solomon's vast bureaucracy, building projects (especially the palace complex and the Temple at Jerusalem), standing army (1400 chariots and 12,000 horses), and harem (700 wives and 300 concubines) was great.
- ✧ High taxes, forced labor, and the loss of tribal independence led to dissension. The Old Testament attributed this dissension to Solomon's feeble old age, "For when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.... Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, 'Since...you have not kept my covenant and my statutes which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you'" (1 Kings 11: 4-11).



The Division of Israel

- ✧ When Solomon died in 922 B.C., the realm split into two kingdoms - **Israel** in the north and **Judah** in the south.
- ✧ These two weak kingdoms were in no position to defend themselves when new, powerful empires rose again in Mesopotamia.

Hebrew Kings				
Name: _____		Date: _____		
King	Time Frame	Strengths	Weaknesses	Relationship to God
King Saul				
King David				
King Solomon				

Enslavement and Persecution of Jews Through History

By Mr. Cegielski



Persecution

Over time, the Jews were persecuted by many groups, but the following 6 are the largest/most important (in chronological order).



Egyptians

Assyrians/Babylonians

Persians

Romans

Martin Luther

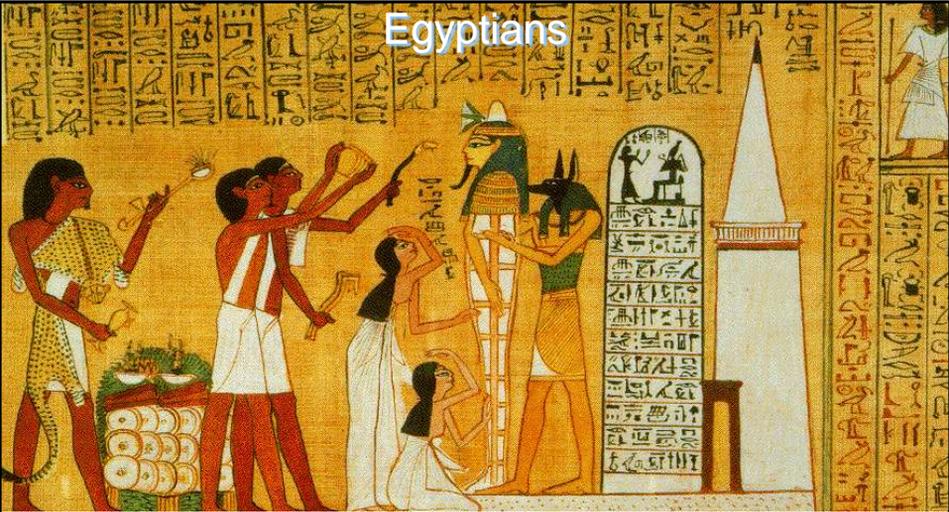
Nazis



Synagogue in Cairo, 12th Century AD

Egyptians

- ✧ ~1800 B.C.E. According to the Bible the ancestor of the Jews/Israelites, Abraham, settled in Israel
- ✧ 1540-1070 BCE – Ahmose I founded the New Kingdom (18th) in Egypt, first mention of the Hebrews in Egypt's history
- ✧ Aside from the Bible, there are few historical documents from this time period



Egyptians

- ✧ 1295 B.C.E. Ramses I establishes the 19th Kingdom of Egypt
- ✧ According to the Bible, during Ramses II's rule the Jews were enslaved, and then Moses led the exile of the Hebrews out of Egypt



Assyrians



- ✧ The Jews exiled to Israel after the Egyptian rule, where they fell under the rule of the Assyrians.
- ✧ However, they were not enslaved, the Jews had to pay tribute to the Assyrians instead



Assyrians



King Darius

- ✧ Soon the Assyrians got in a war with the Babylonians, and the Jews gave their support to the Assyrians
- ✧ The Assyrian Empire fell shortly after the war had begun, and the Jews now fell under Babylonian rule

Revolutions



- ✧ The Babylonians took over most of West Asia
- ✧ Because the Jews had fought for the Assyrians the Babylonians treated them harshly





Israel under Foreign Control and the Babylonian Exile

- ✧ In 721 B.C. the **Assyrians** captured Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom, taking 27,290 Israelites into captivity.
- ✧ The southern kingdom of Judah held out until 586 B.C. when **Nebuchadnezzar**, the Chaldean ruler of Babylonia, destroyed Jerusalem and carried away an estimated 15,000 captives; "none remained, except the poorest people of the land" (2 Kings 25:14) in the **Babylonian Exile** of the Jews.



The Babylonian Captivity of the Jews was known as the first **Diaspora**.

The Diaspora is the scattering of the Jewish people.

There have been two Diasporas.

The first was the **Babylonian captivity**, which ended when the Persians freed the Jews and the Jews returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the temple.

During the Captivity there was an **Age of Prophecy**

The Prophets such as **Isaiah** and **Ezekiel**

The prophets declared that the people needed to return to the original covenant or face punishment.



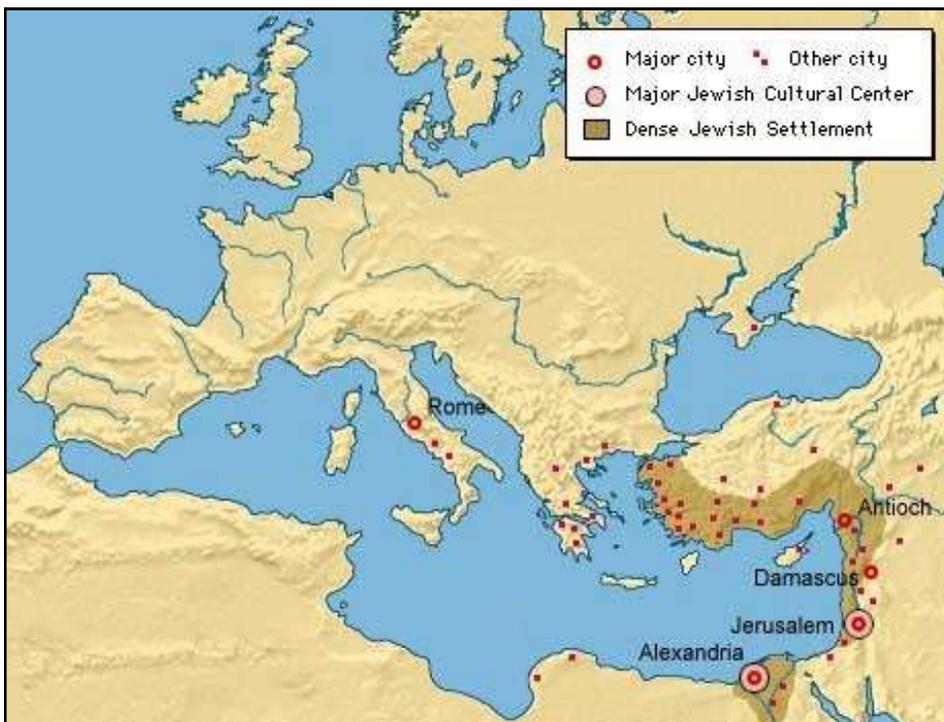


Foreign Control and the Diaspora

- ✧ In 538 B.C. **Cyrus** the Persian, conquered Babylon and allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem where they rebuilt the Temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.
- ✧ Persian rule was followed by that of the Hellenistic Greeks and Romans.
- ✧ **37 BC** Herod the Great installed by Julius Caesar
- ✧ From A.D. 66 to 70, the Jews rebelled against Rome, and Jerusalem was largely destroyed in the savage fighting that ensued. The Jews were again driven into exile, and the **Diaspora** - the "scattering" - was at its height.
- ✧ **70 AD** The destruction of the temple by Titus
 - ✧ Temple worship ends
 - ✧ The Wailing Wall



The Arch of Titus showing the triumphal parade with the temple vessels



Hebrew Time Periods			
Name: _____		Date: _____	
Time Period	Dates	Key People	Summary
Nomadic			
Israel—First Kings			
Assyrian			
Babylonian			
Persian			
Hellenistic			
Maccabean			
Roman			

Ancient Mesopotamian Kings Found In Scriptures			
Name: _____		Date: _____	
Directions: Look up the following kings and write how God dealt with each king and the kingdom they represented.			
King	Kingdom	Reference	God's dealings
Nebuchadnezzar		Dan 1-4	
Belshazzar		Dan. 5	
Darius		Dan 6, Ezra 5-6	
Cyrus		Dan. 6:28	
Xerxes		Esther	
Artaxerxes		Ezra 4, Nehemia 2	



History continued....

Rabbinic Judaism

- ✧ **After 70 AD** Pharisaic Judaism is prominent
- ✧ **The Rabbis** – spiritual descendents of the Pharisees. Became spiritual leaders.
 - ✧ Stressed practice of the Law not belief or doctrine
 - ✧ Today Jewish denominations differ mainly on practice not doctrine
- ✧ **Synagogues**, or temples, become the focal point of Judaic worship.
- ✧ **90 AD** The Sanhedrin at Jamnia (or Yavneh or Jabneh)
 - ✧ Jewish sectarians cursed
 - ✧ The break between Judaism and Christianity
 - ✧ Established the canon of the Hebrew Scriptures
 - ✧ Hub of Rabbinic Judaism till the middle ages and the crusades



Persians

- ✧ 536 B.C.E. The Persian king Cyrus took over the Babylonian empire
- ✧ Cyrus believed in religious freedom, so he let the Jews return to Babylon
- ✧ This ended the Jews' persecution for about 200 years



Before Roman Rule

- ✧ 331 B.C.E. Alexander the Great conquers Israel, makes it part of his own empire
- ✧ 323 B.C.E. Alexander Dies
- ✧ 168 B.C.E. After several hundred years of relative peace, one of Alexander's successors forces the Jews to worship the Greek Gods



Hadrian

Romans

- ✧ 65 B.C.E. A Roman general conquers Israel and the Jews for the Roman Empire
- ✧ The Romans were suspicious, but let the Jews carry on with their religion
- ✧ 66 C.E. Jews revolt, Roman Emperor Titus fights and ends the revolt. Destroy Temple of Solomon in 70 C.E.
- ✧ 131 C.E. Jews revolt again, Roman Emperor Hadrian fights and ends the revolt



Martin Luther and Lutherans



- ✧ Martin Luther was a theologian and reformer who spoke out about the “bad” ways of the Catholics at the time (1500 C.E.)
- ✧ He spoke out against the Jews, and he expected them to convert to Christianity
- ✧ He wrote an entire book titled “The Jews and Their Lies”
- ✧ He translated the Bible into German for common people to read
- ✧ Lutheran is a branch of Christianity



Germans

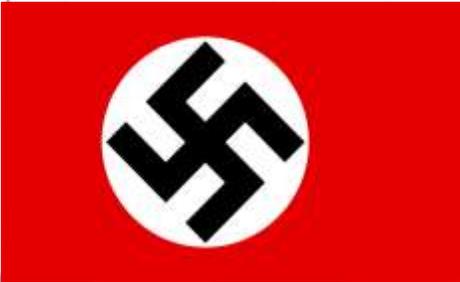


Adolf Hitler

- ✧ 1933 – 1945 The “Third Reich” led by Adolf Hitler
- ✧ Commonly referred to as the Nazi party, or the National Socialist German Workers (German: *Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*)
- ✧ 1939 World War II



Berlin, 1941 Nazi Ring



Nazi Ideals

- Democracy weakens an empire
- Ethnic minorities, other languages, etc have no place in a perfect society
- Racial, social and cultural purity was a central Nazi idea
- A nation is the highest creation of a race; a great nation has to have a great race




The Holocaust

- ✧ The Holocaust was a massive and organized race to destroy all populations of people targeted by the Germans
- ✧ They used killing squads and extermination camps with gas or cremation rooms to get rid of these minorities quickly
- ✧ Their process of killing these people was organized and documented uncommonly well

The Holocaust

- ✧ The Nazis were constantly researching ways to eliminate these groups faster/more efficiently
- ✧ There was no mercy from the Germans, children and babies were not spared
- ✧ Victims were usually made to suffer before they died, mostly in concentration camps through useless labor or malnutrition



Targeted Minorities



- ✧ Jews
- ✧ The Roma
- ✧ The Sinti
- ✧ Poles
- ✧ Russians
- ✧ Physically/Mentally Disabled
- ✧ Homosexuals
- ✧ Communists
- ✧ Criminals
- ✧ POW's
- ✧ Jehovah's Witnesses



“Final Solution to the Jewish Question”



- ✧ The Jews lost their citizenship, and ability to hold jobs, and the right to higher education
- ✧ December 1941 Hitler decides to destroy all European Jews
- ✧ 1942 The “Final Solution to the Jewish Question” was implemented, deporting the Jews to Ghettos and then to the extermination camps when space was available

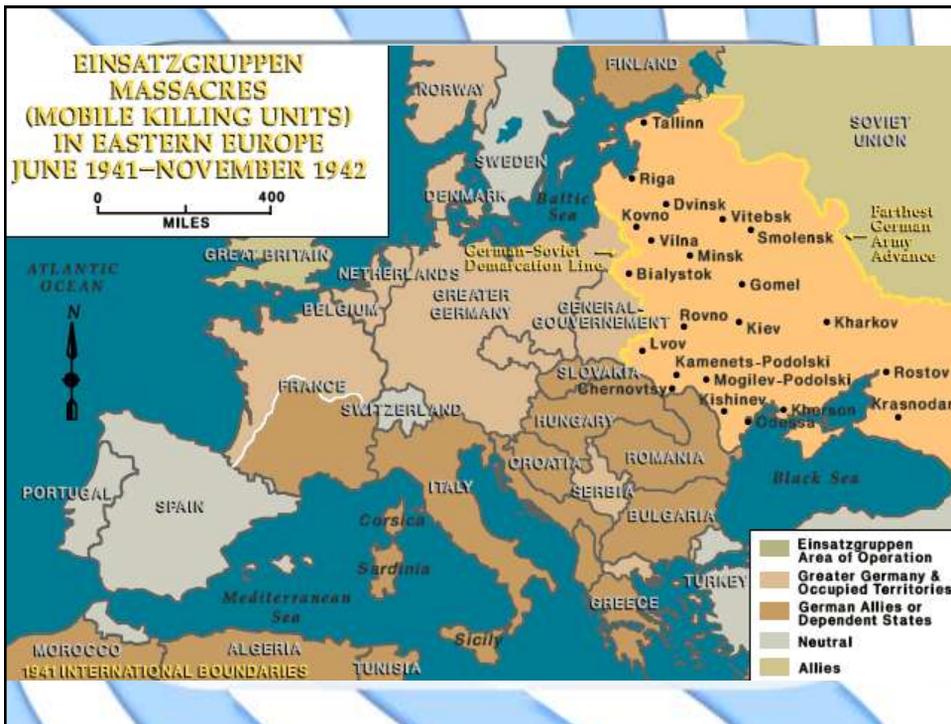


Death Toll



Total Death Toll
9 – 11 million people

- ✧ Jews ~ 6 million
- ✧ POW's ~ 2.5 – 4 million
- ✧ Poles ~ 1.9 million
- ✧ Criminals ~ 1 – 1.5 million
- ✧ Roma and Sinti ~ 200,000 – 800,000
- ✧ Disabilities ~ 200,000 – 300,000
- ✧ Others ~ 20,000 – 30,000





Judaism as a religion, Culture and ethnic identity...

How is this possible?



Jewish Rituals and Customs: The Importance of the Sabbath

- ✧ Every week religious Jews observe the **Sabbath**, the Jewish holy day, and keep its laws and customs.
- ✧ It begins at sunset on Friday and lasts until sunset on Saturday.
- ✧ God commanded the Jewish People to observe the Sabbath and keep it holy as the fourth of the Ten Commandments.
- ✧ Jews often call the day **Shabbat**, which is Hebrew for Sabbath, and which comes from the Hebrew word for rest.
- ✧ The idea of a day of rest comes from the Bible story of the Creation: God rested from creating the universe on the seventh day of that first week, so Jews rest from work on The Sabbath.
 - ✧ No television, telephone or a busy work schedule.
- ✧ Families come together in the presence of God in their own home.
- ✧ Sabbath candles are lit and there are Sabbath blessings, prayers, songs and readings.





Jewish Beliefs

- ✧ Jews believe that there is a single God who not only created the universe, but with whom every Jew can have an individual and personal relationship.
- ✧ They believe that God continues to work in the world, affecting everything that people do.
- ✧ The Jewish relationship with God is a covenant relationship.
- ✧ In exchange for the many good deeds that God has done and continues to do for the Jewish People...
 - ✧ The Jews keep God's laws
 - ✧ The Jews seek to bring holiness into every aspect of their lives.
 - ✧ Jews believe that God appointed the Jews to be his chosen people in order to set an example of holiness and ethical behavior to the world.



Worship--Prayer

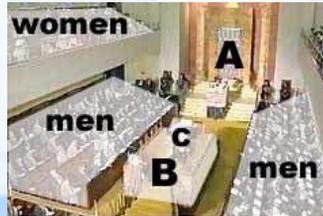
- ✧ Prayer builds the relationship between God and human beings.
- ✧ When people pray, they spend time with God. To pray is to serve God with your heart, obeying God's commandment:

"...to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul" (*Deuteronomy 10:13*)
- ✧ Jews are supposed to pray three times a day; morning, afternoon, and evening.
- ✧ Jewish use a prayer book, called a **siddur**.
- ✧ Jews, like other people of faith, pray in many different ways and for a variety of purposes.
 - ✧ To reach out to God
 - ✧ To express and exercise their beliefs
 - ✧ To share in the life of a worshipping community
 - ✧ To obey God's commandments



The Synagogue

- ✧ The synagogue is the Jewish place of worship, but is also used as a place to study, and often as a community centre as well.
- ✧ Orthodox Jews often use the Yiddish word **shul** (pronounced shool) to refer to their synagogue.
- ✧ In the USA, synagogues are often called temples.
- ✧ In Orthodox synagogues men and women sit separately, and everyone (except young girls) has their head covered. In a Reform synagogue men and women can sit together.
- ✧ Synagogue services can be led by a **rabbi**, a cantor or a member of the congregation.



The picture on the left is of the Central Synagogue, an Orthodox synagogue in London. A is the ark, where the Torah scrolls are kept when not in use. B is the bimah, a platform where the cantor, C, stands to sing the service.

Shiv'ah is the name for Judaism's week-long period of grief and mourning for the seven first-degree relatives: father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, or spouse; grandparents and grandchildren are not included



Rabbi

A Rabbi is a teacher of the *Torah*.

Phylactery

Boxes that contain certain verses from the Torah.



Jewish Holidays and Observances

Bris ceremony within Judaism that welcomes infant (8 days old) Jewish boys into a covenant between God and the Children of Israel through ritual circumcision performed by a *mohel* ("circumcisor") in the presence of family and friends.



 According to Jewish law, when Jewish children reach the age of maturity (12 years for girls, 13 years for boys) they become responsible for their actions. At this point a boy is said to become **Bar Mitzvah** one to whom the commandments apply. A girl is said to become **Bat Mitzvah**

Before this age, all the child's responsibility to follow Jewish law and tradition lies with the parents.





The High Holy Days

- ✧ The High Holy Days come in Autumn, at the start of the month of Tishri. This is the most spiritual period of the year for Jews, a time for looking back on the year just passed, and for taking action to get right with God and with other people. It runs from Rosh Hashanah for ten days until Yom Kippur.

The dates in the Hebrew calendar are 1 Tishri-10 Tishri. Because Hebrew dates begin at sunset, the events begin on the evening before the festival day.

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year festival and commemorates the creation of the world.

Days of Awe or Repentance are the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur during which everyone gets a chance to repent.

Yom Kippur is the most sacred and solemn day of the Jewish year and brings the Days of Repentance to a close.



The Pilgrimage Festivals

- ✧ These commemorate the journey of the Jewish People from Egypt to the Holy Land.

Passover, or Pesach is a spring festival that marks the escape from captivity in Egypt.

Shavuot marks the time that the Jews received God's laws at Mount Sinai.

Sukkot or The Feast of Tabernacles, commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land, and celebrates the way in which God took special care of them under impossible conditions.



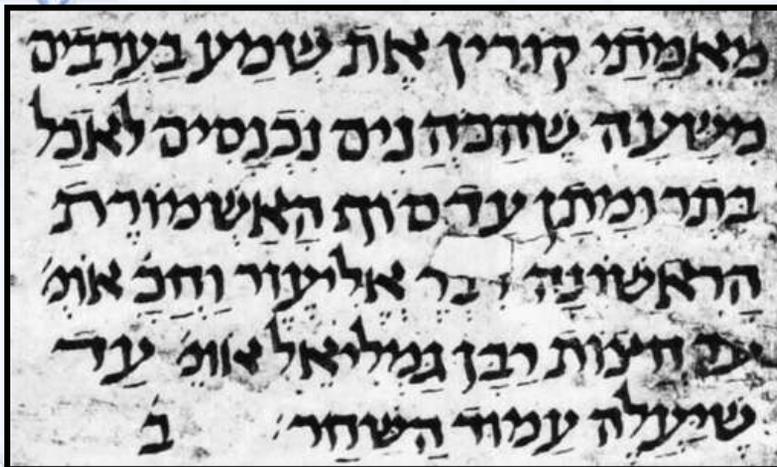


Other Festivals

- ✧ **Purim** marks the defeat of an attempt to wipe out the Jews by Haman.
- ✧ **Yom Hashoah** or Holocaust Memorial Day is a day that has been established to commemorate the lives of millions of Jews who perished in the Holocaust.
- ✧ **Hanukkah** is the **Festival of Lights** and marks the restoration of the temple by the Maccabees in 164 BCE. Hanukkah is celebrated at roughly the same time as Christmas, but there is no connection at all between the festivals.
- ✧ **Tish B'av** is the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av which usually falls in July or August in the western calendar. It is a solemn occasion because it commemorates a series of tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people over the years, many of which have coincidentally happened on this day.



Important Texts



The Kaufmann Mishna Codex 12th or early 13th c



Imp

Talmud, Hebrew – “st

- ✧ Palestinian Talmud or J
- ✧ Palestinian Rabbis w discussions and com
- ✧ Babylonian Talmud 500
- ✧ Babylonian rabbis co discussions on the M
- ✧ Far more extensive t



Babylonian Talmud. Center text is the discussions of the Mishna. Surrounding text is the commentary on the Mishna.



Important Texts

Mishna + Gemara = Talmud

Different Jewish groups invest the Talmud with varying degrees of authority:

- Conservatives consider it inspired and place it next to scripture
- Moderates regard it as authoritative but not inspired
- Liberals give it only historical value

5

REVIEW



Who is believed to have founded the Israelite nation?

- a) Moses
- b) Abraham
- c) David
- d) Solomon

Which of the following is *not* a belief of Judaism?

- a) All people are equal before God.
- b) Kings are bound by God's law.
- c) The rich and the powerful must protect the poor and the weak.
- d) There are many gods, each of whom should be worshiped equally.

General Laws		
Name: _____ Date: _____		
Read what the Scriptures say about each law and write the application it would have for Christians today.		
Law regarding:	Reference	Application Today
Witchcraft	Lev. 19:26-31, 20:6-8	
False Prophets	Deut. 18:20-22	
Blasphemy	Deut. 5:11	
Firstborns	Exodus 34:19, 20	
Tithing	Deut. 14:22-27	
Third Year Tithe	Deut. 14:28, 29	
Sabbath	Exodus 23:12, 35:1, 2	

	Review: J u d a i s m
World Population Origins	
Founder of any Sacred Texts	
Major Beliefs	
Everyday Practices	
Place & Language of Worship	
Spiritual Leaders	
Religious Divisions	



☆ EXTRA INFORMATION ON
 DIVISIONS AND SECTS
 WITHIN JUDAISM



More about Divisions in Judaism

Judaism in America

Background

- ✧ Two sources of Jewish immigrants:
 - Askenazi
 - ✧ Jews living along the Rhine River in northern France and western Germany. The center of Ashkenazi Jews later spread to Poland-Lithuania. Many went to other eastern European countries.
 - ✧ The term "Ashkenaz" became identified primarily with German customs and descendants of German Jews.
 - ✧ Valued education that taught more than the *Talmud*, and the Jewish laws.



Divisions

Askenazi

- ✧ By 1750, out of 2,500 Jews in the American Colonies most were Askenazi.
- ✧ Yiddish-speaking (German dialect)
- ✧ By the end of the 19th century, as a result of Russian persecution, there was massive Ashkenazi emigration from Eastern Europe to other areas of Europe, Australia, South Africa, the United States and Israel.
- ✧ The majority of Jews in the world before WW II were Askenazi.
 - ✧ Hardest hit by the Holocaust.



Divisions

Differences:

- ✧ Prayer liturgy
- ✧ Torah services
- ✧ Many aspects of Jewish law
- ✧ Language – Ladino vs Yiddish
- ✧ In Israel tensions exist
 - ✧ Sephardim have been discriminated against in Israel
 - ✧ Historically, the political elite of Israel have been Ashkenazim



Jewish Mysticism

Kabbalah – "to receive" or "tradition"

- ✧ Origins may go back to the 1st c
- ✧ Founded by Isaac the Blind (c. 1160-1236)
- ✧ Claims a secret oral tradition which began with Moses. Those that know the secret oral tradition know the true meaning of the Torah which has hidden messages in codes and symbols.
- ✧ Ten Sefirot
- ✧ Cultic with connections to other secret societies and even the New Age Movement
- ✧ Goal is a more complete understanding of and an unmediated connection to the Creator.



Hasidism

- ✧ Approximately 2% of American Jewish people today
- ✧ Began in the 1700's in Eastern Europe
- ✧ The founder – Israel ben Eliezer (Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov – “master of the good name”)
- ✧ Emphasized the ability of all Jews to grow closer to God through a life of prayer, love and celebration.
- ✧ Devoted to both the revealed and hidden aspects of Torah; mystical, influenced by Kabbalah.



Rabbi Yisrael Baal Shem Tov
(1698 – 1760)



Hasidism

Teachings

- ✧ Torah study is not the *only* way to draw close to God
- ✧ *Simcha* (“joy”) is expressed through Hasidic worship involving prolonged sessions of singing, dancing, and loud praying with much motion and energy.
- ✧ Successors to Israel ben Eliezer called *Rebbes*
- ✧ *Devekut* (“contact” or “attachment”) to the Holy One is attained through study and obedience and a mystical union with the “Endless One.”
- ✧ Kabbalah mystical text, *The Zohar*, is the holy text claiming mystical traditions going back to the time of Moses



Reform Judaism

- ✧ Freedom from the past
- ✧ 35-38% of American Jewish people today
- ✧ The most liberal of the major movements within Judaism
- ✧ Accepted Western European culture and thought



Reform Judaism

History

- ✧ Outgrowth of the Jewish Enlightenment or *Haskalah* begun by Moses Mendelssohn in Germany in late 18th c.
- ✧ Born in Germany in the early 1800s
 - ✧ Estranged from what they perceived as obsolete rituals of Judaism
 - ✧ Frustrated by discriminatory practices of their society as well as conversions to Christianity
- ✧ First congregation was organized in Hamburg, Germany in 1818 by Rabbi Abraham Geiger
 - ✧ Religious observance should be changed to appeal to modern people



Divisions

Major Tenets:

- ✧ Belief in God as defined in the *Shema*, yet left undefined, open to new conceptions of the divine.
- ✧ The Torah, written by human hands, in the language of its time, with divine "inspiration."
- ✧ The Torah must be reinterpreted to the language of today; creation of Torah has not ceased.
- ✧ Sets aside the Talmudic teaching
- ✧ Man's nature is essentially good; the rationality of humanity; confident in humanity's potential for good.
- ✧ Egalitarianism
- ✧ A strong commitment to moral and social action; the concept of *Tikkun Olam*, rebuilding the world.
- ✧ Not messianic, yet a messianic age of peace
- ✧ Liberal on social issues: divorce, homosexuality, abortion



Reform Judaism

In the US

- ✧ 1846 Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise emigrated to the US from Bohemia.
- ✧ Founded:
 - ✧ The Union of American Hebrew Congregations in 1873
 - ✧ Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1875



Conservative Judaism

- ✧ Balancing the past with the present
- ✧ 35% of American Jewish people today
- ✧ Holds to the Law while adapting to contemporary culture
 - ✧ Traditional diet, prayer, morality
 - ✧ Contemporary dress and worship



Conservative Judaism

History

- ✧ Its first leader was Zechariah Frankel (1801-1875) in 19th c Germany
- ✧ Broke with Reform movement in 1845 when Reform Judaism became too radical.
- ✧ Frankel: “Positive-Historical” Judaism – Accept Jewish law and tradition as normative, yet be open to changing and developing the law in the same historical fashion that Judaism has always historically developed
- ✧ It formed the Jewish Theological Seminary of Breslau and, in 1886, the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City



Conservative Judaism

Theology

- ✧ Affirms belief in God, but does not specify particulars
 - ✧ God could be a supreme supernatural being or a transcendent force
- ✧ Believes that Jewish law (which defines Jewish lifestyle) is continually developing
- ✧ Views man’s essential nature as good



Conservative Judaism

Theology

- ✧ Sees compassionate deeds and charitable actions as the best way to respond to the ills of society and to incomprehensible evil
- ✧ Has a messianic hope
 - ✧ May be an actual person
 - ✧ May be symbolic of an age of peace, tranquility, and justice
- ✧ Strongly supports Zionism and the State of Israel



Orthodox Judaism

- ✧ Maintaining the Past
- ✧ 6% of American Jewish people
- ✧ Recent distinct movement primarily in North America
 - ✧ Elsewhere simply “more observant” Jews
- ✧ Sees itself as the continuation of the beliefs and practices of normative Judaism delivered at Mt Sinai.
- ✧ Ununified movement of different groups holding the same basic principles



Maimonides

Core beliefs of Orthodox Judaism summarized in Maimonides 13 Principles of Faith:

1. The existence of God
2. His unity
3. His spirituality
4. His eternity
5. God alone the object of worship
6. Revelation through his prophets
7. The preeminence of Moses among the Prophets
8. God's law given on Mount Sinai
9. The immutability of the Torah as God's Law
10. God's foreknowledge of men's actions
11. Retribution
12. The coming of the Messiah
13. Resurrection



Orthodox Judaism

Tenets:

- ✧ Key feature: dedication to Torah, both Written and Oral (ie Talmud)
 - ✧ Entire OT is given by God and to be interpreted literally
 - ✧ The Talmud is also inspired by God and considered equally authoritative with the Old Testament
- ✧ Have a high regard for the rabbi as a teacher and interpreter of Torah
- ✧ Strictly observe *Shabbat*, kosher dietary law



Orthodox Judaism

Theology

- ✧ God is considered as “Only One”
 - ✧ He is personal and transcendent
- ✧ People are born neutral with good and evil inclinations
 - ✧ They can sin by breaking the commandments of the Law and must rectify any wrongs



Orthodox Judaism

- ✧ Repentance, prayers, and good deeds are strongly encouraged for salvation
- ✧ Messianic – Messiah will one day deliver the land of Israel and make it the head of the nations.
- ✧ Up to WW II and the Holocaust very anti-Zionist because Zionists were secular socialistic rejecting the authority of the rabbis.
- ✧ Zionism viewed as threatening religious authority structure, and attempting to hasten what God will do at the coming of Messiah.



Secular Judaism

“We are atheists, but we keep the holidays.”

(Said to Corduan on a kibbutz, p 71)

- ✧ Ethnic Jews who do not believe in or practice religious Judaism
- ✧ Identify as Jews, follow cultural practices and traditions, support Jewish causes



Zionism



“The national movement for the return of the Jewish people to their homeland and the resumption of Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel.” (Copyright: Cooperative Enterprise)

- ✧ Theodor Herzl – Late 19th c Austrian Jew
 - ✧ Responded to anti-Semitism concluding that only a Jewish homeland would free Jews from persecution.
 - ✧ Palestine over other options
 - ✧ Coined term *Zionism*
 - ✧ Founded World Zionist Organization



Zionism

The Balfour Declaration of 1917:
 “His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.”