

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- ❖ What were the main events in the early history of the Israelites?
- ❖ How did the Jews view their relationship with God?
- ❖ What moral and ethical ideas did the prophets teach?
- ❖ Why were the Jews persecuted throughout history and what is their lasting legacy?

Judaism and its History



Shalom



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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?

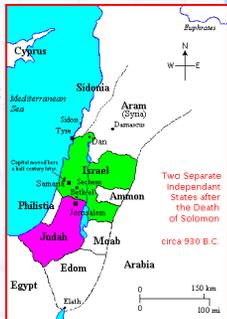
- ✧ According to Genesis, God decided to punish mankind for its sins by causing a devastating flood for 40 days and 40 nights.
- ✧ God instructed Noah to build an ark in order to save a male and female of every species.
- ✧ Do you remember how Genesis compares with other disaster stories, such as the 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



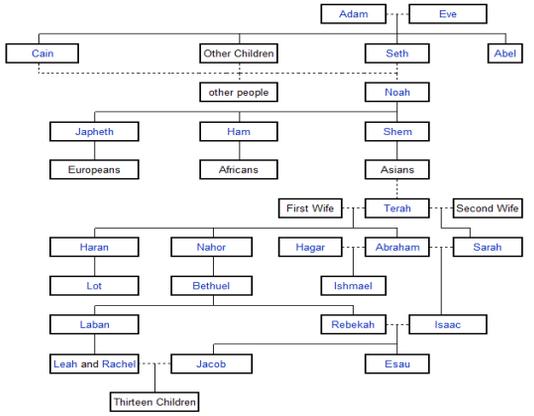
The Beginning of the History of the Hebrews

- ✧ 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.



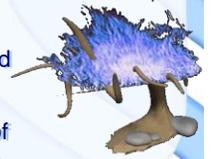
The child Joseph receives his famous multicolor robes from his father.

Family Tree of Certain Patriarchs Mentioned in the Book of Genesis



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.



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 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.



Are the Ten Commandments still relevant today?



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.

8. Why was it 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

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' 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' weapons were more advanced than he'd suspected.



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.



King Solomon of Israel

- After King David's death, his son **Solomon** (961-922 B.C.), brought Israel to its height. In the words of the Bible:

"Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt; they brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.... And Judah and Israel dwelt in safety, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon.... And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and largeness of mind... Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, besides that which came from the traders and from the traffic of the merchants, and from all the kings of Arabia and from the governors of the land... The king also made a great ivory throne, and overlaid it with the finest gold...." (1 Kings 4:20 f.; 10:14 f.)



King Solomon 970-930 BCE

United the tribes of Israel into the **Kingdom of Israel**

Solomon was the son of King David, and was known as a wise king.

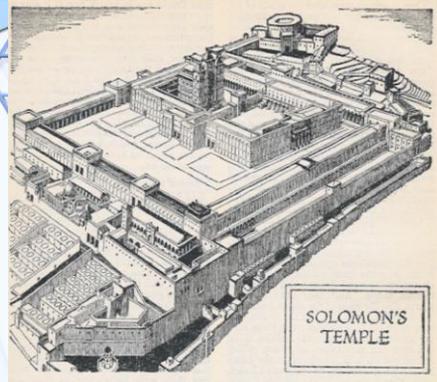
During this time Jerusalem became the capital of the Kingdom of Israel



Under the leadership of Solomon, Israel reached the height of its power.

He built a great temple in Jerusalem which became the focal point of the Jewish Religion.

The remains of this temple, now known as the Western Wall or **Wailing Wall** are still a focal point of the Jewish faith.



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.

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

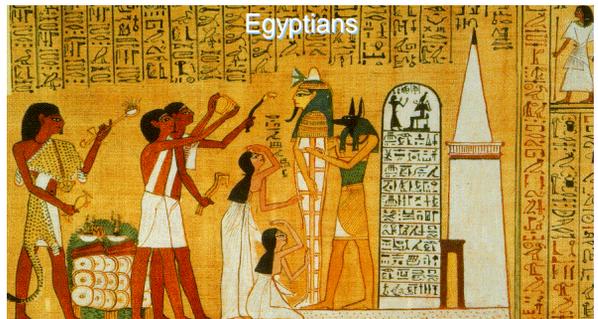


Egyptians

- ✦ ~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



18th Century Chandelier



- ✦ 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

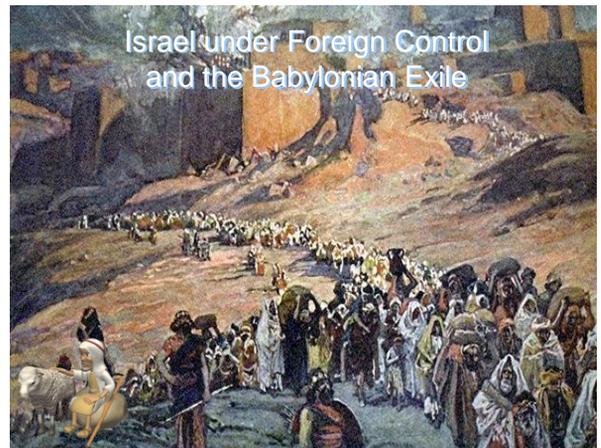
- ✧ Soon the Assyrians got in a war with the Babylonians, and the Jews gave their support to the Assyrians
- ✧ The Assyrian Empire fell shortly after the war had begun, and the Jews now fell under Babylonian rule



Babylonians



- ✧ 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.

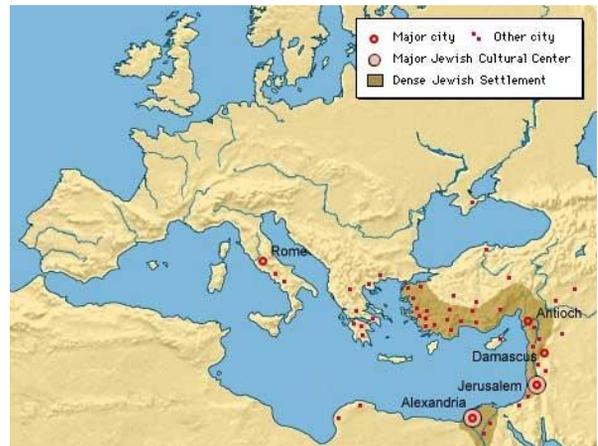


Foreign Control and the Diaspora

- ✧ 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.





History continued....

Rabbinic Judaism

- ✧ **After 70 AD** Pharisaic Judaism is prominent
- ✧ **The Rabbis** – spiritual descendants 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



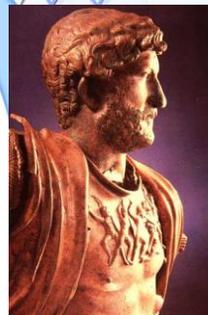
Before Roman Rule



- ✧ 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



Romans



Hadrian

- ✧ 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

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

- ✧ 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



Total Death Toll
9 – 11 million people





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

How is this possible?