

JUDAISM I

HISTORY:

- Abram is chosen by God to be father of many nations. {Gen. 12:2} [~2000 BC]
- Wife Sarai unable to bare children. Abram fathers a child with Sarai's Egyptian maid Hagar. {Gen. 16} Hagar gives birth to Ishmael, the father of Arabs and eventually the Islamic religion.
- God changes name to Abraham, establishes covenant with him, and introduces circumcision as token of covenant. {Gen 17}
- At 100 years old (Sarah 90 years old), Abraham fathers Isaac, his child promised by God.
- Abraham's obedience is tested by God when he asks Abraham to sacrifice his son. God intervenes and saves Isaac.
- Isaac's sons: Esau (older) and Jacob (younger)
- Esau sells birthright (and hence preferred blessing) to Jacob.
- Jacob receives the better blessing from his father.
- God changes Jacob's name to Israel. {Gen. 32:28}
- Fathers 12 sons: Levi, Reuben, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Judah, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph, Benjamin
- Moses born to Jewish parents in captivity in Egypt. Adopted by Pharaoh's daughter and raised in the courts of Egypt. Kills Egyptian beating a Jewish slave. Flees Egypt and lives as a shepherd.
- Returns to Egypt to liberate Jews. After a series of supernatural plagues, Pharaoh let's the Jews go, but will chase after them.
- Jews cross supernaturally parted Red Sea. Egyptian pursuers wiped out when sea closes on them.
- Joshua leads Jews into promise land and drives out Canaanites.
- Kingdom established by Samuel; first king Saul.
- 2nd king, David, establishes Jerusalem as the religious and political city after killing Goliath. Writes the Psalms.
- 3rd king, Solomon, builds the first temple.

Genealogy: *David:Solomon:Roboam:Abia:Asa:Josaphat:Joram:Ozias:Joatham:Achaz:Ezekias:Manasses:Amon:Josias:Jechonias:Salathiel:Zorobabel:Abiud:Eliakim:Azor:Sadoc:Achim:Eliud:Eleazar:Matthan:Jacob: **Joseph (Mary) ----- Jesus***

- Israel becomes a nation again in 1948.

Tanakh (Old Testament)

- **Torah:** (Pentateuch): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.
- **Nevi'im:** Joshua, Judges, Samuel (2), Kings (2), Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah, Malachisaiah, Amos.
- **Ketuvim** (the Writings): Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, Ruth, Esther, Lamentations, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles (2).

Talmud: stories, laws, medical knowledge, morality debates.

Mishnah: Laws from the Tanakh (compiled 200 AD)

Gemara: Rabbi commentaries on the Mishnah. Contains differences in opinion.

Major festivals:

- **Passover** (delivery out of Egyptian slavery – Moses)
- **Rosh Hashanah** (Jewish New Year)
- **Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement)
- **Sukkoth** (Feast of the harvest)
- **Hannukah** (Festival of lights – in honor of war fought by Maccabees for religious freedom)
- **Purim** (Feast of Lots – Queen Ester defeats plan to slaughter Persian Jews – 400 BC)
- **Shavout** (Feast of Weeks – celebrates YHWH's revelation of Torah to the Jews)

Other common Jewish beliefs:

- God's name: **YHWH** – no vowels in Hebrew, sometimes vowels omitted out of respect in English: Jehovah or Yahweh
- Jesus was not YHWH's son.
- No belief in Holy Spirit...i.e. no trinity concept
- No original sin

Why do most people forget (don't know) that Jesus is Jewish?

Why don't Jews, on average, believe that Jesus Christ is their (or anybody else is) savior?

Are Jews "The Chosen People?" – What does this mean? - Do the Jews believe this?

What's the difference between Reformed, Conservative, Orthodox forms of Judaism?

What does Kosher mean?