



# The Hebrews & Judaism

# Big Idea

- **Originally desert nomads, the Hebrews established a great kingdom called Israel**
- **Main Idea:**
- Abraham & Moses led the Hebrews to Canaan and to a new religion
- Strong kings united the Israelites to fight off invaders
- Invaders conquered & ruled the Hebrews after their kingdom broke apart

# Abraham & his family

- The Jewish people talk of their beginning and their laws in the Old Testament of the Bible- found on scrolls written by Hebrew scribes.
- The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) traces the Hebrews back to Abraham, who was told by God to leave Mesopotamia and settle in Canaan.
- After a famine struck Canaan, the Hebrews ended up in Egypt and lived well, causing the pharaoh concern.



# The Exodus



- The pharaoh of Egypt made the Hebrews slaves to stop them from taking over Egypt.
- A leader named Moses demanded that the pharaoh free his people.
- He refused, and plagues occurred, frightening the pharaoh.

- His people were released, so they began their Exodus out of Egypt.
- God then gave Moses the Ten Commandments by which to live.



- They included worshipping only God and valuing human life.
- The Hebrews reached Canaan (after wandering for 40 years) and settled there in small communities, as the Israelites.

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- 1. Place:** What natural features did Abraham and Moses follow on their long journeys?
- 2. Movement:** About how many miles was Abraham's journey from Ur to Canaan?





# The Ten Plagues of Egypt

## #1 The Nile River turns to blood

# The Plagues of Egypt

#2 Frogs  
overrun Egypt

#3 Egypt's dust  
becomes gnats!



# The Plagues of Egypt

#4 Swarms of flies infest Egypt

#5 Egypt's livestock will die, but not any belonging to the Hebrews





# The Plagues of Egypt

#6 Festering boils will break out on humans & animals in Egypt

#7 The worst hailstorm that ever fell on Egypt



# The Plagues of Egypt

#8 Locust covered all the ground in Egypt

#9 Three days of absolute darkness fell on Egypt





# The Final Plague of Egypt

#10 First born children Egyptians will be stuck down

## Abraham

## Same

## Moses

- **Lived in Mesopotamia**
  - Told by God to move to Canaan
  - Received God's promise that his descendants would become a mighty nation
- Significant person in Hebrew history
  - Directed & spoken to by God
  - Led a major migration
- **Lived in Egypt**
  - Told by God to gain freedom of Hebrew slaves & led the Exodus
  - Received Ten Commandments from God on Mt. Sinai

# Strong Kings United the Israelites to Fight off Invaders

- The new threat to the Israelites came from the Philistines.
- The Israelites united under Saul, who became the first king of Israel.
- The Israelites wanted a single ruler who could lead them in battle.
- David became king after Saul. He won many wars.
- Solomon became king next, and expanded the kingdom and trade.
- He made allies with nearby kingdoms, including Egypt and Phoenicia. Trade with them made Israel very rich.
- With the riches that came from this, he built a temple to God in Jerusalem.



# Solomon's First Temple

Temple Mount on Mount Zion- Jerusalem

# Invaders Conquered & Rule

- After Solomon's death, revolts broke out over who should be king.
- This split Israel into two kingdoms, called Israel and Judah. The people of Judah became known as the Jews.
- Both were conquered, and Judah fell to the Babylonians.



# A History of Conquests

- Judah was conquered by Babylon
- It was in turn conquered by Persia
- Persia was conquered by Alexander the Great
- Finally, Judah was conquered by Rome







# Jewish Beliefs & Texts

# Big Idea

- ❑ **The central ideas and laws of Judaism are contained in sacred texts such as the Torah**
- ❑ **Main ideas:**
- ❑ Beliefs in God, education, justice, & obedience anchor Jewish society
- ❑ Jewish beliefs are listed in the Torah, the Hebrew Bible, and the Commandments
- ❑ The Dead Sea Scrolls reveal many past Jewish beliefs
- ❑ The ideas of Judaism have helped shape later cultures



# Judaism

- Orthodox Jewish people base their lives on their **religion**
- **Monotheism**- belief in one God, and only one God
- Most believe it is the oldest monotheistic religion in the world

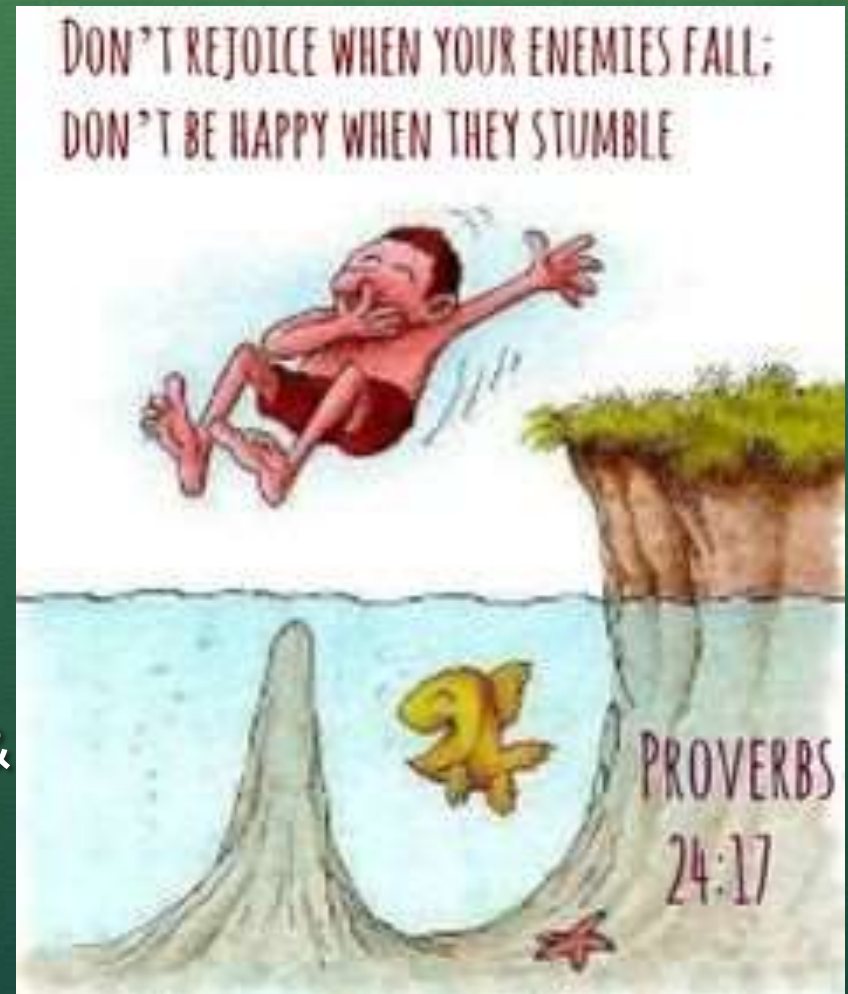
# Jewish Books

- Torah- the first five books of the Old Testament in the Bible
  - The books of Moses
  - Also called the Law
- Synagogues are Jewish churches
  - Each has a copy of the Torah
  - Older boys (not girls) studied with professional teachers to learn their religion

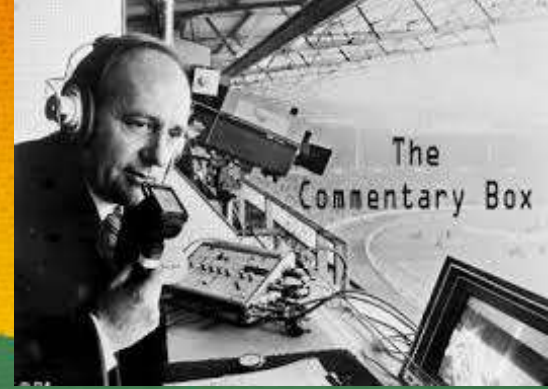


# The Jewish Bible

- **Torah** is only one part of the Hebrew Bible
- Part two is the **Prophets**
- The final part is the **Writings**- includes stories, poetry, songs:
  - **Psalms**- songs of the Hebrew people
  - **Proverbs**- little bits of wisdom & truth



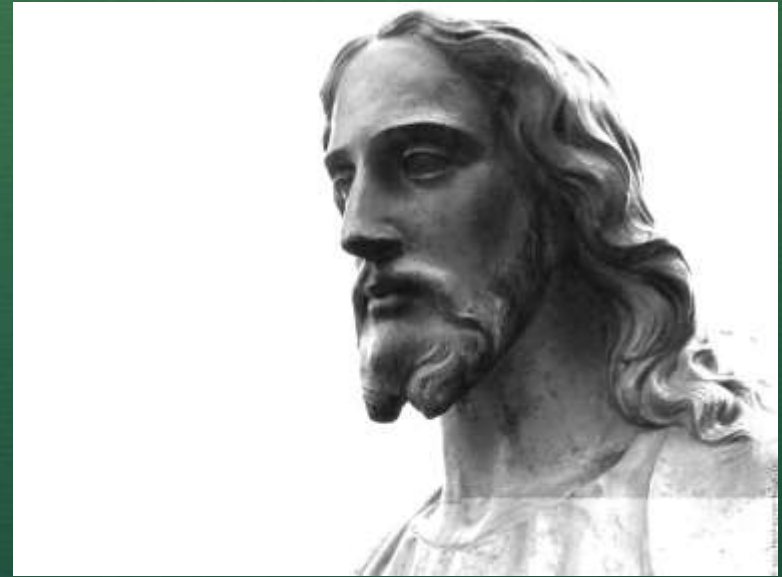
# Talmud



- A set of commentaries designed to explain Jewish law (in the Hebrew Bible) – written between 200-600 AD
- Considered second to the Bible in Judaism
- The Jewish people consider justice paramount, even non-Jews deserved justice. They are to take care of the poor and weak
- They are also supposed to do right at all times, even when no one is around, because God sees at all times.

# Effects of Judaism on Us

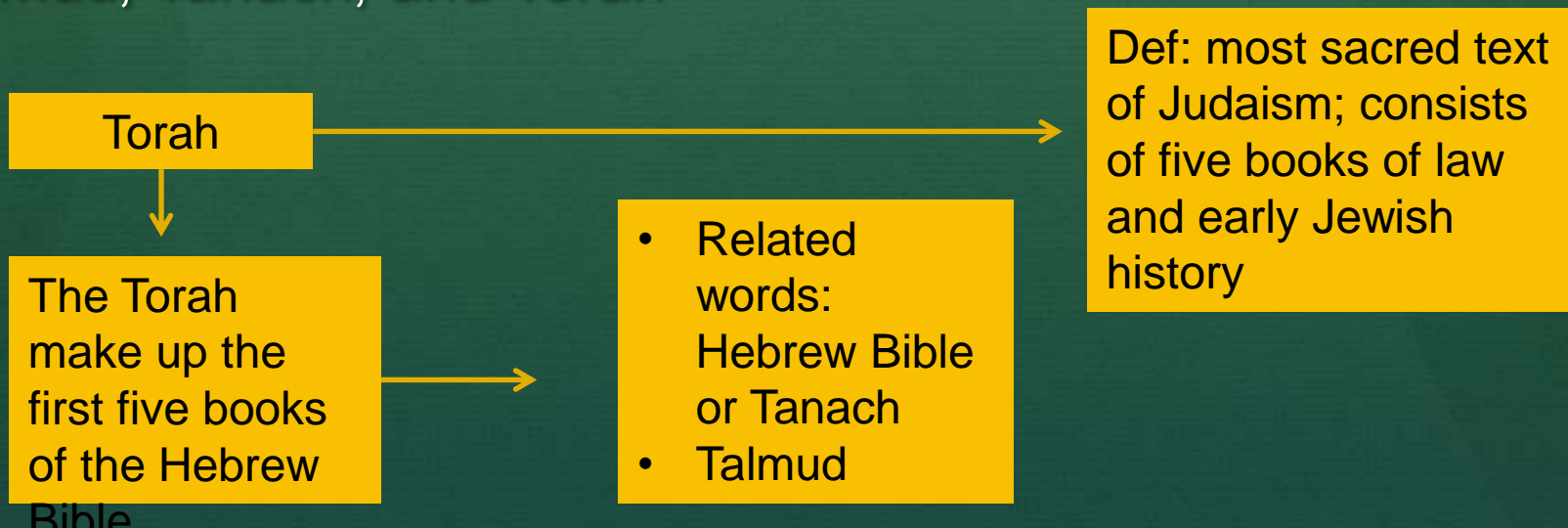
- Christianity developed out of Judaism
  - Jesus was Jewish
- The second largest religion in the world, Islam also traces its roots to Judaism
- Finally, Jewish teachings of the Ten Commandments and charity influences Western morals.



# Word Mapping Activity

**Directions:** Each word map should provide the terms definition, a sentence using the term correctly, and one to three related words or ideas.

**Terms:** Commentaries, justice, monotheism, prophets, proverbs, principles, righteousness, Sabbath, synagogue, Talmud, Tanach, and Torah





# Critical Thinking Activity

Using the information from the notes, identify four basic beliefs of Judaism & explain them in this diagram form:



# The Jewish dispersion or "Diaspora"



Judaism over the Centuries

# Big Idea

**Although they were forced out of Israel by the Romans, share beliefs and customs helped Jews maintain their religion.**

## Main Ideas:

- Revolt, defeat, and migration led to great changes in Jewish culture
- Because Jews settle in two different parts of the world, two cultural traditions formed
- Jewish traditions and holy days celebrate their history & religion

# Reaction to Conquests



- **Zealots** – A group of Jewish people who detested foreign rule, and often incited people to riot
- The Zealots caused a massive rebellion in 66 AD against the Romans.
- The revolt lasted four years, and led to the destruction of Jerusalem.

# From the Writings of Josephus

“As the flames went upward, the Jews made a great clamor, such as so mighty an affliction required, and ran together to prevent it; and now they spared not their lives any longer, nor suffered any thing to restrain their force, since that holy house was perishing.”



# Jewish Revolts in Masada

Most of the Jews surrendered after the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. However, 1000 Zealots decided it was still worth the fight, and so they sealed themselves up in a fortress called Masada. There, they waited two years while the Romans prepared an invasion. Finally, right before the Romans entered the fortress, all of the Zealots committed suicide.



# Results of Revolution

- The Romans destroyed the city completely
- Many Jews fled the city to never return, many traveling back to Egypt, where their families had been slaves a thousand years before
- Some stayed, though, and sixty years later revolted again. At that point, the Romans forbade all Jews from living in Jerusalem again. This led to the Jews leaving until modern times.

# Life in the Outside World



- **Rabbis** became the unofficial leaders of Jewish communities around the world. They serve as priests for the communities.
- Some Jewish communities maintained their culture, while others melded with surrounding people



# Two Cultural Traditions

## Eastern European

- Ashkenazim- Jews who moved to France, Germany, & eastern Europe during diaspora
- Separate communities from non-Jews
- Ex: Created own language Yiddish-similar to German but is written in the Hebrew alphabet

## Spanish & Portuguese

- Sephardim- Jews who moved to western Europe, Spain, Portugal
- Created own language- Ladino: mix of Spanish, Hebrew, & Arabic
- They lived amongst non-Jews
- Borrowed elements from other cultures
- Advances in philosophies, poems, mathematics, astronomy, medicine

# Jewish Holidays

**Hanukkah** –  
commemorates a  
Jewish victory over  
enemies, in which  
God allowed lamps  
to last much longer  
than they were  
supposed  
(menorah)



# r

- A holiday that occurs in March or April.
- It celebrates God's delivering the Children of Israel from their slavery in Egypt.
- They eat unleavened bread (flat bread), and eat a special meal.



# Jewish Holidays

## High Holy Days:

- These are the two most important days in the Jewish calendar
- **Rosh Hashanah** is the Jewish New Year, and is in September or October
- **Yom Kippur** is the holiest day, the Day of Atonement, or the day in which they ask God to forgive their sins
- **They consider the day so holy they don't even eat or drink anything the entire day**



# Life Event: Jewish Holiday/Beliefs

**Bar Mitzvah**- “son of commandment”

- Boys who turn 13 years old becomes bar mitzvah (grown man) (Girls who turn 12 years old become “**bat mitzvah**” - grown woman) and is morally & ethically responsible for his (her) decisions and actions



## Short-term Effect

## Long-term Effect

### The Exodus

- Left Egypt
- Received Ten Commandments
- Wandered through the desert
- Settled in Canaan

- Provided Jews with a significant & culturally binding historical event (remembered as Passover)

### The Babylonian Captivity

- Jews enslaved in Babylon for 50 years

- After their release many Jews did not return & thus began what is called the Diaspora

### The expulsion of Jews from Jerusalem (diaspora)

- Jews slowly scattered throughout Mediterranean region & rest of the world

- Changed nature of Judaism
- Led to creation of two Jewish cultural traditions