

World Religions

Judaism

Ross Arnold, Summer 2015

Lakeside Institute of Theology: www.litchapala.org

Videos of lectures will be posted as soon
as possible

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World Religion Lectures

- August 21 – *Introduction: A Universal Human Experience*
- August 28 – *Hinduism*
- **September 4 – Judaism**
- September 11 – *Religions of India (Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, etc.)*
- September 18 – *Religions of China & Japan (Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, etc.)*
- September 25 – *Christianity*
- October 2 – *Islam*
- October 9 – *Animism, New Age, Atheism, Secularism*

Today's World Religions by Date of Founding

	<u>Pop. (000s)</u>	<u>% of World</u>	<u>Founded (c.)</u>	<u>Where</u>
Hinduism	1,100,000	12.65%	4000-2500BC	Indus Valley
Judaism	14,000	0.20%	2000 BC	Palestine
Buddhism	488,000	5.29%	560-490 BC	India
Chinese Trad. ¹	394,000	5.54%	500 BC	China
Shinto	4,000	0.06%	500 BC	Japan
Jainism	4,200	0.06%	420 BC	India
Christianity	2,200,000	29.52%	30 AD	Palestine
Islam	1,600,000	21.09%	622 AD	Arabia
Sikhism	28,000	0.32%	1500 AD	India
Bah'aism	7,300	0.10%	1863 AD	Persia
Other ²	690,000	9.70%		
Non-relig. ³	1,100,000	15.46%		

¹ Includes Confucianism, Taoism, Shamanism

² Includes all other smaller religious affiliations identified

³ Includes secular, non-religious, agnostic and atheist

The Rise of Monotheism

(or “ethical monotheism”)

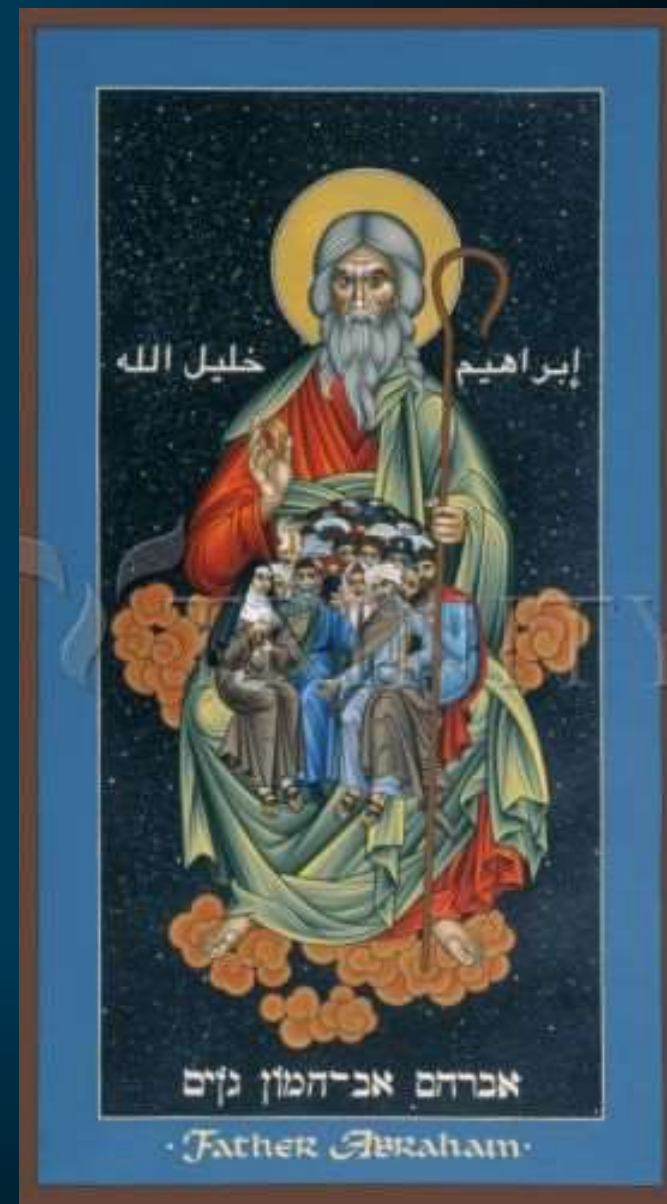
Polytheism was based primarily on PERCEPTION of nature or natural phenomena.

Monotheism was founded on REVELATION – an event in which the One God chose to reveal Himself to humanity – beginning with the Jews.

Looking at Some Numbers

- Total World population: 7.1 billion
- Christians worldwide: 2.2 billion
- Muslims worldwide: 1.6 billion
- Hindus worldwide: 1.1 billion
- Buddhists worldwide: 488 million
- Sikhs worldwide: 28 million
- Muslims in Indonesia: 203 million
- Southern Baptists in US: 33 million
- Total number of Jews worldwide: 14 million,
or <0.2% of the world population.

Yet Jews have received 22% of Nobel Prizes and are a major force in entertainment, medicine, law, and on and on.



Father Abraham – world's first monotheist & source of all 3 great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Events in the Creation of Jewish Monotheism

c. 2091 BC – **God speaks** to Abram (later to become Abraham) and calls him to follow Him, and so begins the *People of God*, the Hebrews.



The Call of Abram: Genesis 12:1-5

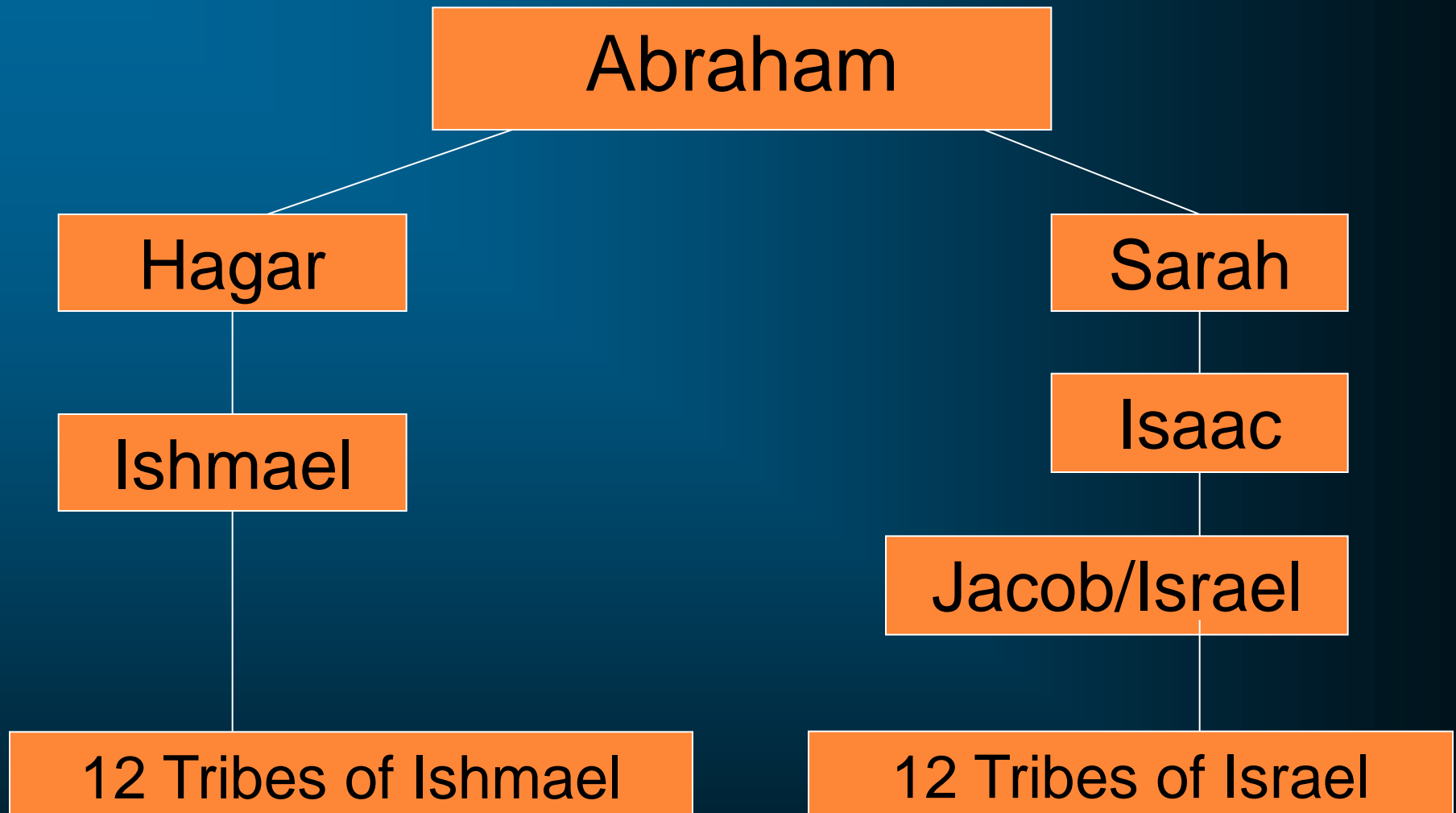
The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴ So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.





Events in the Creation of Jewish Monotheism

- c. 2091 BC – God speaks to Abraham (later to become Abraham) and calls him to follow Him, and so begins the *People of God*, the Hebrews.
- c. 1446 BC – **God calls** Moses to lead the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt, giving the Law through him, and so begins the *Religion of Judaism*.



The Call of Moses

But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

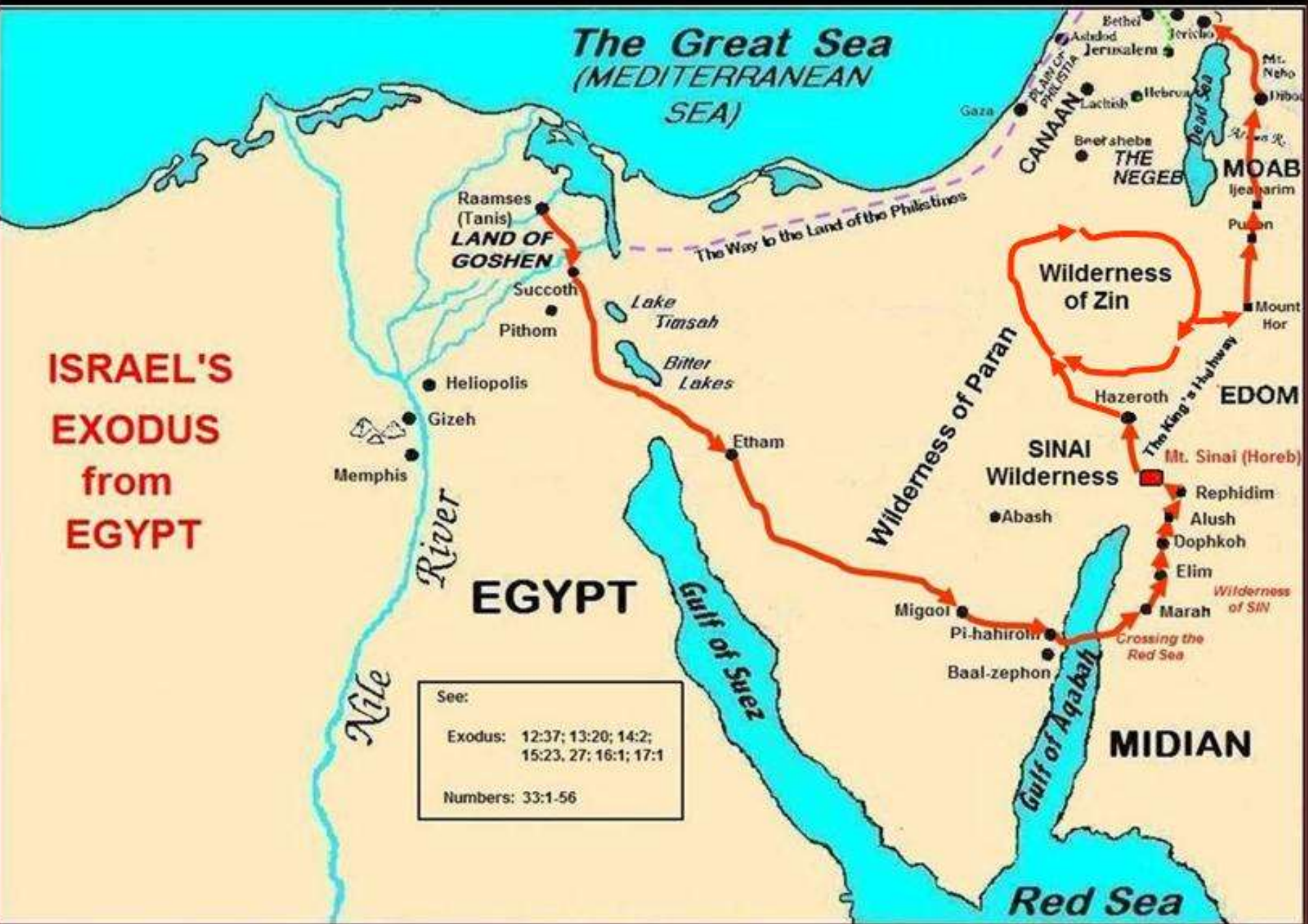
¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.

Exodus 3:11-15





ISRAEL'S EXODUS from EGYPT





Moses as a kid

Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

Exodus 19:3-6

The Hebrew TaNaKh

- Torah (“Instruction”)
- Nevi'im (“Prophets”)
- Ketuvim (“Writings”)



THE TORAH

בְּאֶרֶץ נִשְׁן וַיֵּאָחֲזוּ בָהּ
מֵאֵד וַיְחִי יַעֲקֹב בְּאֶרֶץ
שֶׁבַע עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה וַיֵּי
שְׁנֵי חַיָּיו שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים וְאַ
וּמֵאֵת שָׁנָה וַיִּקְרָבוּ יָמָיו
לְמֹוֹרֶת וַיִּקְרָא רָאִבְנוּ
וַיֵּאָחֲזוּ בָהּ



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- c. 1010 BC – **God leads** the Prophet Samuel to call the young David to become King of Israel, thus creating the *Nation of Israel*.



THE UNITED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

Around the time of
SAUL AND DAVID

EDOM Vassals and defeated peoples





Jewish Dates Leading Up to the 1st Century

930 BC – King Solomon dies; Kingdom is divided.

722 BC – Assyria destroys Northern Kingdom of Israel.

586 BC – Babylonia destroys Southern Kingdom of Judah; Babylonian Captivity & Jewish diaspora.

Effect of Babylonian Captivity on the Jews

- The Babylonian Exile staggered Judaism.
 1. Is YHWH God NOT as powerful as the Babylonian gods?
 2. Does God no longer love us, or no longer accept us as His Chosen People?
 3. How do we continue without the things that represent our election by God – the Promised Land and the Temple? *(Development of the synagogue system, with a formalized focus on prayer and study rather than sacrifice.)*
 4. How do we worship without the Temple?
 5. Are we to be assimilated into a foreign culture – as happened to the Northern Kingdom of Israel? *(Why synagogues became community centers.)*

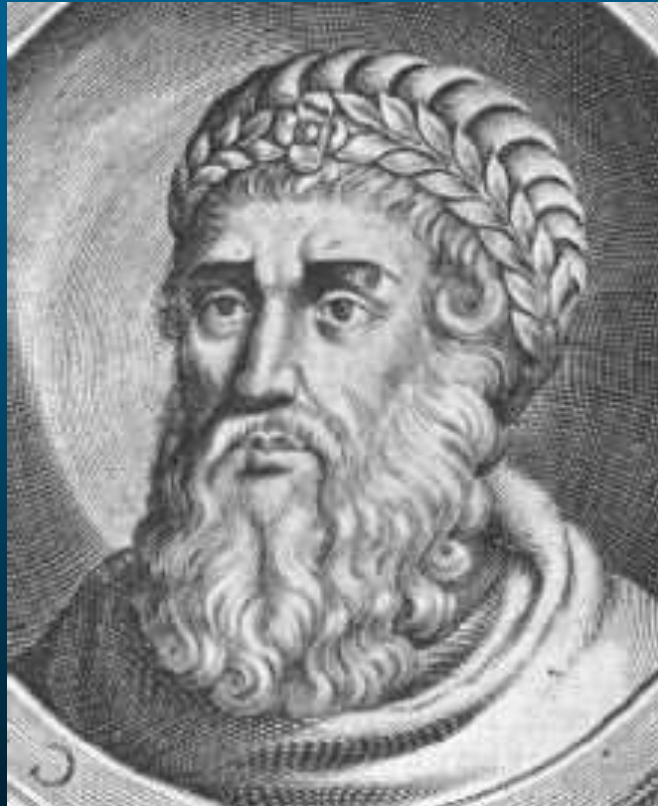
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- 586 BC – Babylonia destroys Southern kingdom of Judah; Babylonian Captivity & Jewish diaspora.**
- 538 BC – Persian King Cyrus lets Jews return home.**
- 332 BC – Alexander the Great conquers the Persian Empire and spreads the Greek language/culture. Judaism begins to split into more Hebraic Jews (Pharisees) and Hellenized Jews (Sadducees).**

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- 63 BC – Pompey conquers the region for Rome.**
- 39 BC – Roman Senate makes Herod “King of the Jews”**

1st Century Palestine



Herod the great



The 1st Century AD and Judaism

- The last prophet of God – Malachi – had been over 400 years earlier. Where was God?
- The Greek influence on Jewish culture and religion had created tremendous rifts.
 - Pharisees – the “set apart ones” were Jewish fundamentalists, holding to strict acceptance of all the Hebrew Bible and opposing Hellenization.
 - Sadducees were liberal Hellenized Jews with a limited interpretation of Torah (but not the rest of the Tanakh), and most of the political power.
 - Essenes were cultic, apocalyptic Jewish sect that advocated complete separation.
 - Zealots saw Roman oppression as the enemy, to be driven out at all costs.

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- 70 AD – After Jewish rebellions, the Romans’ future Emperor Titus Trajan destroys Temple & Jerusalem**

Jewish Diaspora, A.D. 70-500

DIRECTIONS GEOQUIZ

- Major Jewish settlements, A.D. 500
- ➔ Jewish routes
- ★ Area of Jewish population, present-day

"Diaspora" is a Greek word that means "scattered." The Jewish Diaspora refers to the movement of Jews out of their traditional lands to locations throughout the world.

0 200 400 miles
0 200 400 kilometers



Basic Jewish Beliefs (10 Commandments, Ex, 20:1-17)

- 1. You shall have no other gods before God.*
- 2. You shall not make or worship any idols.*
- 3. You shall not take the name of God in vain.*
- 4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy, doing no work on that day.*
- 5. Honor your father and your mother.*
- 6. Do not murder.*
- 7. Do not commit adultery.*
- 8. Do not steal.*
- 9. Do not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
- 10. Do not covet your neighbor's house or wife or manservant or maidservant or ox or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.*

Basic Jewish Beliefs (Maimonides's 13 Principles)

1. *God exists, and is the Creator.*
2. *God is one and unique; there is none other like Him.*
3. *God is not physical.*
4. *God is eternal.*
5. *Prayer is to be directed only to God.*
6. *The words of the Prophets are true.*
7. *The prophecies of Moses are true.*
8. *The Torah was given to Moses.*
9. *There will be no other Torah.*
10. *God knows the thoughts and deeds of all.*
11. *God rewards the good and punishes the wicked.*
12. *The Messiah will come.*
13. *The dead will be resurrected.*

“All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but the Jew remains. What is the secret of his immortality?”

Mark Twain

Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid. ¹¹ I am with you and will save you,’ declares the LORD.

‘Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only with justice; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.’

Jeremiah 30:10-11

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