

SHARING JESUS WITH...

JUDAISM

FOUNDATIONS

When did Judaism start?

Judaism started when God revealed himself to Abram about 2,000 BC. God changed his name to Abraham and he became the father of the covenant nation of Israel. The name Judaism comes from the tribe of Judah, the most prominent of the 12 tribes.

Who are the major figures in Judaism?

The three major figures in Judaism are Abraham, Moses, and Ezra. They represent three major periods in Jewish history.

Scriptures

What Christians call the *Old Testament* the Jews refer to as the *Tanakh*. There are three parts to the Tanakh; the **Torah** (the Law), the **Neviim** (the prophets), and the **Ketuvim** (the writings). The three letters T-N-K stand for Tanakh.

JUDAISM AFTER CHRIST

What are the different sects of Judaism?

During the intertestamental period several groups formed.

Pharisees were the largest group, most liked by the people. They were the scribes and teachers they formed schools of teaching (Schammai, Hillel, Gamaliel, etc.).

Sadducees were smaller in number, but put in power but the Romans to keep the peace. They were rich and powerful.

Herodians were a party that was sympathetic to Herod's dynasty and to Rome. Typically aligned with the Pharisees.

Essenes were an ascetic group that lived a secluded lifestyle in the desert at Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls).

Zealots were a terroristic branch that despised the Romans. They were likely the ones responsible for the burning of Jerusalem in 70 AD and the destruction of the temple.

There are estimated
14 million Jews in the
world today

THE UNITED STATES IS HOME
TO ABOUT 4.5 MILLION.

The Shema

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our
God, the Lord is one. Love
the Lord your God with all
your heart and with all your
soul and with all your
strength."

- Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Jews are not ethnically diverse
like Christians are. Therefore you
will find practicing and
non-practicing Jews.

Some Jews allow Gentiles to
convert to Judaism. They were
God-fearers and proselytes.

Judaism rejects the doctrine of
original sin, saying that sin is an
act, not a state. Thus, man has
the ability to live according to
the Law. If he fails, he only needs
to come to God in repentance.

With this view of sin,
Judaism has eliminated
the need for a Savior.

What are the other religious writings of Judaism?

After the fall of Jerusalem the Pharisees were the only group that remained. They became the teachers or Rabbis of the Jews. The Jews were scattered because of persecution from Rome. The **Mishnah** is collection of the Rabbis teachings of Scripture. Mainly 2 Rabbis teachings, completed around 200 AD. The **Talmud** was put together between 400-500 AD. The Talmud is the Mishnah combined with the **Gemara** (Narratives and Illustrations with the teaching) It became the standard for interpretations for Jewish life. There is a Palestinian Talmud (400 AD) and a Babylonian Talmud (500 AD). They are large volumes organized by six categories.

Later books called **Midrashim** were made to add commentary to the Talmud between 400-1200 AD.

The **Yigdal** is a prayer by Spanish Rabbi Maimonides (1135-1204 AD) that incorporates the 13 principles of faith in Judaism.

Are Jews still looking for the Messiah?

Most Jews do not believe there will be a Messiah (they prefer the term Anointed One) as a specific human. They believe that inspired Jewish leaders will educate the Jews on the Scripture and usher in a time of peace. Small groups of orthodox Jews that still believe in a Messiah will come at the end of the age.

What's their view of sin and salvation?

Most Jews do not believe in a concept of Satan. There is no personal power of evil. There is little concern for the end of the world although some believe in a final battle (Armageddon) at Megiddo. Salvation is waiting in the end for those who live a righteous life according to God's divine expectations. Jews today, simply ask for forgiveness from God

Are there different sub-groups of Jews?

There are three main groups of Jews.

Orthodox— The most traditional group, Torah observant.

Conservative—Torah observant but adopt to modern lives.

Born in America in the 1920's as a middle of the way group.



Above is a Page from the Talmud. The Mishnah is in the center and followed by the Gemara wrapped around next. The outer text is other commentary from lesser known Rabbis and teachers.

MANY CHRISTIANS ASK...

“Since you can’t offer sacrifices now how do you think you will be saved and go to heaven?”

This **wrongly** assumes 3 things;

1. Jews have a need to be saved.
2. Jews believe in Heaven.
3. Jews want to go back to a sacrificial system.

JEWS REFER TO THEMSELVES AS THE “CHOSEN ONES” NOT OUT OF ARROGANCE BUT WITH RESPONSIBILITY TO BE THE ONES TO REFORM THE WORLD THROUGH GOD’S LAW.

There have been a few Jews since Jesus that claimed to be the Anointed One. Sabbatai Zevi was one of the more famous.

Born in turkey in the middle ages was captured by Muslims in 1666 where he converted to

Islam shortly after. This brought on a very dark time for many Jews who then left their faith in God.

Extra Resources

BOOKS

Our Hands are Stained with Blood, Michael L. Brown

The Real Kosher Jesus,

Michael L. Brown

APPS

Ask Dr Brown Ministries

Stand to Reason

Cross Examined

PODCASTS

The Line of Fire w/ Dr. Brown

Upcoming Topics

4/2—Buddhism

4/9—No Class (Easter)

4/16—No Class (Bus. Mtg.)

Reform (not reformed)— From Germany in the 18th century Value the Torah, not as authoritative but look for new ways to find peace in their home country. They may be pro-choice or liberal leaning in politics.

Kabbalah is a group focused on mysticism. They seek a special connection to God. It came about in the middle ages and was centered around personal holiness, but has become more about personal success thanks to celebrities who practice it.

Hasidism came from Germany in the 1,700's and taught that God could be found inside a person, not by obeying the law. These were most of the Jews that were killed in WWII.

How is Judaism different from OT Christianity?

Judaism is about a relationship with God and with other people (the 10 commandments). It is about helping others find life.

Judaism is not so much a set of doctrines/beliefs but more about a prescription for living life. Don't ask a Jew, "what do you *believe*," ask what do you *practice*? What do you *do*?"

All Jewish groups have a desire to make a difference in the world through a life of righteousness.

SHARING JESUS WITH THE JEWS

How can I connect and build a relationship with Jews?

Consider using the idea of *heritage* to let them teach you what they believe and practice. You can learn from them and encourage them.

Judaism has undergone an existence filled with *persecution* from Egypt, Babylon, Rome, and Nazi Germany. Be careful to speak graciously and not to give a condescending attitude that is similar.

Reassure that becoming a Christian does not take their ethnicity away as a Jew.

What are strategies I can use to share with Jews?

Don't assume Jews know about Jesus as Messiah and reject him. Take time to share why we all need a Messiah and use the OT to teach it.

Isaiah 53 is a powerful passage that points to Jesus as Messiah.

Remind them that the first Christians were Jews and NT Authors.

Focus on the meaning of Christ's sacrifice. The OT makes it clear that God choose blood to be the means of sacrifice.