

- How did being at the crossroads of civilization affect the early development of the Judaic faith?
- Discuss how Judaism survived over centuries despite dispersal and persecution.
- List and explain three core theological beliefs of Judaism as described by the video.
- Compare and contrast one of Judaism's major moral concepts, free will, with the concept of predestination.

Follow-up Activities

- Have students research and chart three or four major sects of the Judaic practice found today. Include the name of a specific founder if applicable, the philosophy and theological principles of the group, and any characteristics that distinguish the group from others in Judaism.
- Have students research and present the important Jewish holidays. The report might include the calendar dates, religious significance and the practices associated with each holiday.
- Actions inspired by anti-Semitism and prejudice are prevalent issues in many areas of the world. Have students research, debate and develop an action plan for their community to prevent anti-Semitic and prejudicial activities from occurring.
- Have students research and present the 20th-century history of Israel, including the Zionist movement, the role of both World Wars and the conflicts in the Middle East.

Internet Resources

www.jewfaq.org/

Judaism 101 — Online encyclopedia of Judaism, covering Jewish beliefs, people, places, things, language, scripture, holidays, practices and customs.

www.mfa.gov.il/facts/hist/fhist1.html

History of the Israelites and Israel — A time line beginning from the 6th century B.C.E. to modern times as well as information about the state of Israel, its people and culture.

<http://members.aol.com/LazerA/index.html>

Talmud Torah Center for Basic Jewish Education — A basic outline to Judaism, the Torah and mitzvos.

www.adl.org/

Anti-Defamation League — Founded in 1913, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is "the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry." The ADL's web site includes general information about the organization, press releases, ADL report summaries and human-relations materials.

Suggested Print Resources

- Black, Benjamin. *Understanding Judaism*. Northdale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1991.
- Garcs, Fay Carol. *Judaism*. Facts on File, 1991.
- Hertzberg, Arthur and Hirt-Manheimer, Aron. *Jews*. New York: Harper, 1998.
- Mack, Stan. *The Story of the Jews*. New York: Villard, 1998.
- Rosenburg, Roy A. *Everything You Need to Know About America's Jews and Their History*. New York: Plume, 1997.
- Scheindlin, Raymond P. *A Short History of the Jewish People*. New York: Macmillan, 1998.

TEACHER'S GUIDE:

Paul J. Sanborn

Assistant Professor of Intelligence, American Military University
Historian, Freedoms Foundation

TITLES IN THIS SERIES

- AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN RELIGIONS
- ANCIENT RELIGIONS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
- BUDDHISM
- CONFUCIANISM & TAOISM
- HINDUISM
- ISLAM
- JUDAISM
- NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRITUALITY
- ORTHODOX AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY
- PROTESTANT CHRISTIANITY
- RELIGIONS OF SMALL SOCIETIES
- SHINTO
- SKEPTICISM & RELIGIOUS RELATIVISM

Teacher's Guides Included
and Available Online at:

libraryvideo.com™
10,000 Educational Videos & CD-ROMs!

800-843-3620

SCHLESSINGER
MEDIA
— A DIVISION OF LIBRARY VIDEO COMPANY, —

P.O. Box 580, Wynnewood, PA 19096 800-843-3620

© 1998 Religions of the World, LLC under license from
Liberty International Entertainment, Inc.
Produced and directed by Greenstar Television



Religions of the World™

JUDAISM

The study of world religion is the examination of the specific beliefs, customs and traditions of a particular religion as well as its impact on world culture and history. The *Religions of the World* video series and its accompanying Teacher's Guides are designed to supplement World Cultures and History curriculum. These teaching aids are meant to invite classroom study and dialogue and challenge students to make connections between the past and the present. Questions and insights are likely to develop and will reveal striking similarities and vast differences among the world's major religions as well as the unique perspective of its many individual cultures.

SCHLESSINGER
MEDIA
— A DIVISION OF LIBRARY VIDEO COMPANY, —

Historical Overview

Almost four thousand years old, Judaism is among the world's oldest surviving religions, and it was one of the first religions to subscribe to monotheism. It is comprised of a complex system of ethical codes and laws that are transcribed in two major texts, the Torah and Talmud. Judaism provides its followers with a way of life that is centered around the synagogue and the home where God, family and community are the focus. Judaism is a religion of many cultural practices, rituals and traditions that have survived despite the persecution of its followers and the absence of a homeland until the 20th century.

Time Line

960 B.C.E. — Solomon builds the sacred Temple in Jerusalem.

c760 B.C.E. — The Assyrians conquer northern Israel.

586 B.C.E. — The Babylonians conquer southern Judea.

c520 B.C.E. — The Jews return to Jerusalem & build the second sacred Temple.

165 B.C.E. — The Maccabees rule a free Judea independent of Assyrian control.

63 B.C.E. — The Romans capture Judea.

70 C.E. — During the Jewish revolt, Roman troops destroy the second sacred Temple in Jerusalem. The Romans then deport the Jews from Judea to the far reaches of the Roman Empire.

c200–250 C.E. — The Mishna, the first Rabbinic literature, is written. It is based on the oral traditions of Judaism and explains how to apply the sacred scriptures and the oral traditions to everyday Jewish life.

550–600 C.E. — The Talmud is compiled. It consists of discussions of cases, precedents and interpretations of the Mishna's understanding of Biblical law and how it is applied to new situations.

18th Century C.E. — Hasidism is founded by the Ba'al or Shem Tov.

19th Century C.E. — The Reform branch of Judaism begins.

1941–1945 C.E. — The worst years of the Holocaust for European Jews, who are persecuted and systematically murdered by Hitler and his Nazi followers.

1948 C.E. — Israel is established as a modern nation state in Palestine.

Vocabulary

Abraham — Considered to be the father of the Jewish people. He is the first to embrace the concept of one god, and it is with Abraham that God makes the first covenant.

Monotheism — The belief in one god, in opposition to polytheism or the belief in more than one god.

Canaan — The original name of the land promised by God to the followers of Moses when they left Egypt in search of a new land upon which to settle.

(Continued)

Mount Sinai — The mountain on which Moses received the complete code of ethics and laws, known as the Ten Commandments.

Torah — The first five books of the Hebrew Bible which presents the Mosaic law and moral codes. Torah comes from the Hebrew word for "instruction."

Israelites — The children of Israel and the name God gave to Jacob, the third patriarchal ancestor of the Jews.

Cyrus — The Persian king who conquered Babylonia. He allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the Temple.

Messiah — The Expected One who will free and elevate the Jewish people to new levels of devotion in practicing God's law.

Diaspora — The Jews who live outside of Israel in other countries around the world; a phenomenon originating when Jews were sent out of Palestine into exile under Babylonian rule.

Synagogue — The central place for congregational worship and fellowship for Jewish communities and the place where customs, religious practice and faith are maintained.

Talmud — One of the major texts of Judaism, it contains three million words that instruct on codes of behavior for both religious and secular life.

Rabbi — The respected teacher and leader of worship usually associated with a particular congregation at a specific synagogue.

Minion — The necessary quorum of at least ten men so that the rabbi can conduct full religious services.

Sabbath — The weekly holiday (sundown Friday to sundown Saturday) reserved for worship and attention to family and community.

Bar Mitzvah & Bat Mitzvah — Respectively mean "son" and "daughter" of the Commandment and are religious rites of passage for thirteen-year-old boys and twelve-year-old girls. After the ceremony, they are fully responsible in the eyes of God and are seen as adult members of the congregation.

Kosher — Very specific dietary laws regarding food restrictions as well as proper animal slaughter.

Zionism — The political and religious movement that gained momentum after the Holocaust as a campaign for Jews to return to Zion, a Jewish homeland, and in 1948 resulted in the state of Israel.

Pre-viewing Discussion

- Discuss the concept of monotheism and polytheism. Explain that Judaism was the first truly monotheistic religion.
- Discuss what it must have been like for people to go from believing in many gods to believing in a single god.
- To set the stage for the study of Judaism, share the Old Testament story of Abraham and his covenant with God.

(Continued)

- Ask students to draw and discuss a time line for the inception of the three major monolithic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- Important to Judaism is the ethic that the individual is also responsible for the community's relationship with God. Ask students to suggest examples of behaviors or events that demonstrate their understanding of this concept. Also, ask them to think of other groups of people who hold similar religious views (The Amish).

Focus Questions

1. What is the significance of Canaan and where is it today?
2. What is monotheism? How does it define Judaism?
3. What was Abraham's Covenant with God?
4. What did Moses contribute to Judaism after his meeting with God on Mount Sinai?
5. What is the Torah?
6. Who are Saul, David and Solomon, and what did they do to help establish a Jewish homeland?
7. What happened to the Israelites between the reign of Solomon and the building of the second Temple?
8. What are the three parts of the Hebrew Bible?
9. How did the Jews fare under Roman rule?
10. How did Judaism change as it became synagogue-centered rather than temple-centered after 70 C.E.?
11. What is the purpose of the Talmud?
12. What impact did Islam have on the evolution of Judaism?
13. What is the role of education in Judaism?
14. What are the diverse roles of the synagogue today?
15. What is the importance of the Jewish Sabbath?
16. What are the most sacred of the High Holy Days during the Jewish religious year?
17. What three laws take precedent over the preservation of a human life?
18. What does being kosher mean?
19. How does Jerusalem serve as a central theme in Judaism?
20. What is the Zionist movement? What was its main goal?

Follow-up Discussion

- Judaism is often referred to as more than a religion; it is also a culture and way of life. Are there other religions like Judaism in this regard?
- Why is Jerusalem such a powerful and important part of the Judaic tradition? What does it mean politically in the Middle East today?

(Continued)