

- Jude: one who comes from Judea; an identity in terms of land and region.
- Israel: name given to Jacob; means one who strives with God. It is religious identity.
- Hebrew: the people and the language they speak.
- Background in the development of Judaic thought
  - The near eastern religions: polytheistic, but try to conceive of one highest God.
  - They try to conceive of heaven and hell and idea of reward and punishment.
- The Hebrew Bible
  - 800BCE-400BCE
  - The Torah is the first book of the Hebrew bible.
    - It's called: Pentateuch(five scrolls)
      - Genesis
        - Story of creation of the world presents God as:
          - Creator
          - Intelligent being
          - Active power
          - Omniscient
          - Omnipotent
          - Has purpose in creating this universe
        - The account of Garden of Eden, temptress Eve brings punishment on Adam and eve.
        - Story of Noah and the flood
        - Story of Tower of Babel
      - Exodus
        - Hebrew midwives were to kill all male children born.
        - Moses was spared
        - Moses brought up in the house of Pharaoh. But when Moses sees an Israeli slave being mistreated, he flees from Egypt.
        - The burning bush: Moses hears the voice of God saying to return to Egypt to help free the slaves.
        - Moses wants to know the divine spirit. God's response: "I will be who I will be"
        - YAHWEH: word comes from the verb 'hayah'=to exist or to be alive
        - It is God who is Life, existence, and everything else is contingent upon him.
      - Leviticus
        - Describes laws:
          - Regarding animal sacrifices. Animals may or may not be eaten. Prohibition of eating blood in it. Cutting one's beard
      - Numbers
        - The account of wanderings of Jewish tribes at various places.

- Deuteronomy
    - Describes the ten commandments again
    - Death of Moses before entering Canaan
      - After death of Moses, Israelites led by Judges.
  - The Judges and Kings
    - Judges were people with: military power & legal authority.
    - After death of Moses, Israelites led by Judges.
    - Joshua:
      - A judge. Leads the Hebrews across Jordan River.
      - Takes town of Jericho and land of Canaan.
      - Canaan divided among eleven of the tribes.
        - Levy, the 12<sup>th</sup> tribe is given the charge of worship and religious functions among tribes.
    - The first king is Saul(BCE)
      - Tragic figure who commits suicide
    - Thereafter comes David(1013)
      - Considered a prototype King of Jews
      - Had great aspiration to build the temple of Jerusalem
    - Solomon
      - Son of David
      - Succeeds in building 1<sup>st</sup> home for Yahweh
      - Raised revenue for temple construction by raising the taxes
      - Tax increases caused a revolt against the kingdom of Solomon
        - Northern tribes broke away from control of Jerusalem
        - Southern kingdom carried on its own until Babylonians took control of it.
    - During exile and captivity of Jews by Babylonia, Sabbath service of worship developed, since it became difficult for the Jews to visit the Temple and perform sacrifices.
    - In 540 BCE Cyrus, King of Persia, took over Babylonia and allowed Jews to return to their homeland and the Second temple was built.
  - The Talmud
    - Considered the interpretations of Hebrew scriptures by Rabbis to apply their principles, rules and regulations to problem arising in everyday life.
    - Two kinds of Talmud:
      - Palestinian Talmud
      - Babylonian Talmud
- Torah(teachings)
  - Nevi'm(early and later prophets)

- Kethuwim(miscellaneous writings or everything else)
- Abraham: Birth- 1400BCE
  - 400 years later=Moses. 1000bce
- Essentials of Jewish Belief
  - Belief in one God and only one God.
    - He is the creator.
    - The judge of human beings.
    - He is just.
    - According to Judaism, justice must prevail among human beings and we as humans must strive to establish it.
  - Belief in the message of prophets.
  - Belief that God gave law to Moses.
  - Belief that Messiah has yet to come.
  - There would be a resurrection in the world to come.
- Main Themes of Judaism
  - God is One, absolute monotheistic
    - Omnipotent
    - Omniscient
    - Judge
    - This concept develops first, at least in the western religious tradition and becomes finalized in the Hebrew bible in the year 400 BCE, the credit for which goes to the great scholar of the Hebrew bible named Barouch.
  - God is the creator of this universe and everything in it.
    - He created it out of nothing. (ex nihilo)
    - In contrast to Babylonian myth of creation, Marduk created the universe by mixing Apsu, Ti'amat & Mumy.
  - Judaism develops ethics and morals as the cornerstone of Judaism
    - Ten commandment
  - God is conceived as the Judge.
- Responses to the outside influences
  - Contact with the Hellenistic world and its worldview:
    - Some Jews accept it.
    - Some Jews rejected it
    - Still others adapted a position in between
  - As a result of this tension there came into being four Judaic groups around 165 BCE
- Four Judaic Groups
  - The Sadducees
    - Members of the priestly class
    - Considered religious authority
    - Accepted only the Torah as scripture
  - The Pharisees
    - Focus on careful observation of Jewish laws and practice
    - Accepted wider number of books beside the Torah, valued oral tradition.
  - The Zealots