

## **A Brief History of Judaism**

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Frederich the Great of Russia asked Count Nikolaus Von Zinzendorf to defend the truth of the Bible. "The Jew", replied Zinzendorf!

Napolean was asked if miracles happened, he replied, "The existence of the Jews."

#### **I. Judaism in the Old Testament**

##### **1. Abraham**

Before Hammurabi of Sumer began his empire and wrote down his famous code – a wealthy man of Ur had a spiritual visitation from God. 2090 B.C.

##### ***Genesis 12:1-3***

***Now the Lord had said to Abram:***

***"Get out of your country,***

***From your family***

***And from your father's house,***

***To a land that I will show you.***

***2 I will make you a great nation;***

***I will bless you***

***And make your name great;***

***And you shall be a blessing.***

***3 I will bless those who bless you,***

***And I will curse him who curses you;***

***And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."***

Abram was a direct descendent of Shem the son of Noah.

Arphaxad

Sala

Eber

Peleg

Reu

Serus

Nahor

Terah

Abraham

After Abraham was born Shem lived another 200+ years. According to the book of Jasher (mentioned twice in the Bible), Shem was Melchizedek who was King Priest of Salem (Jerusalem).

Abraham would see **Melchizedek** after he rescued Lot from Maranders.

**Genesis 14:18-23**

***Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said:***

***"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,  
Possessor of heaven and earth;  
20 And blessed be God Most High,  
Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."***

***And he gave him a tithe of all.***

***21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself."***

***22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'***

Led to Abraham's Salvation

**Genesis 15:1-6**

***After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."***

***2 But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"***

***4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the***

***stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."***

***6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.***

2. Isaac, Jacob (Israel), Joseph

Genesis traces the patriarchs of the Jews through the descent of Abraham.

- a. Isaac – the son of promise
- b. Jacob – He stole the blessing from Esau and bought his distraught for a bowl of stew! Jacob, which means deceiver, would have his name changed to Israel.

***Genesis 32:24-31***

***Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. 25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. 26 And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks."***

***But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"***

***27 So He said to him, "What is your name?"***

***He said, "Jacob."***

***28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."***

***29 Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray."***

***And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.***

***30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."***

***31 Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.***

Here is where we get the name Israel.

He had 12 sons who became the children of Israel.

One of the son's was Judah which means praise. This is where the word Jew comes from.

c. Joseph

Israel had 2 wives, Leah, by who he had 10 sons and Rachel, by who he had Benjamin and Joseph.

Joseph, out of jealousy, was sold into slavery and ended up in Egypt. After being a slave, a prison inmate, falsely accused, he rose to the right hand of Pharaoh. After his death the Jews were slaves of the Egyptians.

d. Moses

Moses was miraculously delivered from Pharaoh when he vowed to kill the sons of Israel. Rescued by Pharaoh's daughter from a boat of reeds in the Nile, he was reared and educated in the palace of Pharaoh.

Discovering his identity, he fled from Egypt after killing an Egyptian abusing a Jew. At a burning bush Moses is called to deliver his people.

This he does by plagues and miracles. To escape the Egyptian army by a miracle of the Red Sea parting.

Because of disobedience they wandered for 40 years. Miraculously protected, fed, and nurtured by God. During that time they are given the law and the tabernacles.

Moses is not allowed to enter the Promised Land because of his sin.

e. Joshua

Joshua, one of two survivors of the original generations that left Egypt, leads in the conquest of Canaan and the people take the land.

f. The Judges

After Joshua's death the dark period of Judges came. There were 14 Judges but the most prominent were:

Othniel  
Ehud  
Barak (Deborah)  
Gideon  
Jephthah  
Samson

Judges ends darkly with everyone doing what is right in their own eyes.

***Judges 21:25***

***In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.***

g. The Monarchy

Samuel would anoint Saul as their first king. Saul would fail miserably many times but his most notable failure would be at Gilgal.

***1 Samuel 13:14***

***But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you."***

David would be anointed King, kill Goliath, live with Saul as a son in law. Finally David would be driven out and flee for a period of proving.

David would reign for 7 years in Hebron and 33 years in Jerusalem, amassing great wealth.

## h. The Exile

Solomon would follow and erect the magnificent temple. After his death, his sons, Rehoboam and Jeroboam, would divide the kingdom into Northern and Southern Kingdoms. The Northern kingdom would go into Assyria captivity in 721 B.C. and the Southern Kingdom of Judah in 586 B.C. to the Babylonian!

During this time the prophets would minister as well.

Isaiah– Malachi

Malachi would be the last of the prophets for 400 years.

## i. The Return from Exile

Cyrus of Persia (Iran) would free the Jewish people to go home before 538 and 516 B.C. from exile. Only Judah returned. The Northern 10 tribes were lost.

The Samaritans were Jews that escaped the captivity and intermingled with the occupying forces of Babylon.

Zerubbabel returned as King because he was of the house of David. Jerusalem was a heap of ruins. Nehemiah returned to rebuild the walls, Ezra instituted religious reforms, and later Haggai would challenge them to rebuild the Temple. The Temple was completed in 516 B.C.

## HELLENISM

Alexander the Great would conquer Persia and the Jews were under his reign. The Greek culture called Hellenism infiltrated Jewish culture.

After Alexander's death the Empire was divided into 4 sections. Two of those were the Ptolemies who held Egypt and Palestine and the Seleucids that held the Syrian area. Unfortunately the Jews were the buffer with so many battles staged there.

One of the Seleucia Kings was a the wicked named Antiochus Epiphanies. He tried to convert the Jews to the Greek religion, and defiled the Temple by offering a pig on the altar.

The Maccabees then arose and after 25 years of struggle won a brief independence (The Miracle of Hannakah celebrates what happened in that revolt).

j. The Religion Rises

It took 155 years for the Hebrew Bible to be translated into Greek. It is called "The Septuagint."

Pharisees and Sadducees

During this time you had a split between the Hellenistic Jews and the Orthodox Jews.

The conservatives were the Pharisees who believed in life after death, miracles, and a literal interpretation of scripture. They believed in angels and demons!

The Sadducees were liberal, denying the supernatural and using politics to gain power.

ESSENES

In the deserts and hills of Southern Judea, the Essenes were flourishing and preserving scriptures. This sect was monastic. Their community was uncovered and the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves near there!

k. The Roman Occupation

Rome conquered the known world and spread culture by building roads, arenas, libraries, and cities across the Empire. Israel came under the heel of Rome.

During this time Jesus of Nazareth was born in Bethlehem, fled to Egypt for 3 years under the threat of Rome's puppet, King Herod, a descendent of Esau. Jesus and his family returned to Nazareth where He received rabbinic training. He would be crucified by the Romans after Jews charged Him with sedition. He was buried in a tomb sealed and guarded by

Romans but on the third day rose from the dead. Five Hundred eye witnesses saw Him alive at the same time.

## **II. Judaism Scattered Across the World**

Jesus had prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem. In 70 A.D. the Romans conquered Israel. In 116 A.D. Jerusalem's name was changed to Aelia Capitolina and Jews were forbidden to enter.

The Jews were scattered across the earth:

- Babylonia
- Persia
- India
- Europe
- The Americas

Across the next 6 centuries the Jews established neighborhoods and tried to maintain their culture. Celebrated and persecuted, they were without a nation.

Two forces arrayed against them that still survives today.

### **1. Reformation Christianity**

For all the good the reformation did – Luther hated the Jews. His invectives would be used by Hitler later to persecute and murder 6 million Jews.

The Catholic church, as well, would not support Israel.

### **2. Islam**

Around 600 A.D. Islam rose under Mohammed. At first he embraced the Jews but his demonic dreams and alteration of Old Testament scripture led to conflicts. He would hate Jews (and Christians) and his Islamic fanatics would murder millions. These threats continue until this day.

During this season the Jews would compose their commentaries on scripture called The Talmud!

## **The Persecution of the Jews**

1932-1945 – 6,000,000 murdered by Hitler's Nazis. Millions of Jews were displaced



1920 – to Present – 3 million killed by communists

Today – Millions under threat of Islam!

### **III. Judaism's Journey**

Judaism excels in writer, intellect, the arts, and business. The majority of Nobel Prize winners have been Jewish.

Today you have:

Reformed Jews  
Conservative Jews  
Orthodox Jews

Anti-Semitism lives today around the world. In America, Jews have been ridiculed by replacement theologians, hated by the Ku Klux Klan, and now despised by the rising hordes of Islamic extremists.

Communism hated and persecuted the Jews in Russia and Eastern Europe. Europe today is anti-Semitic.

The Middle Eastern Arab-Islamic world hates the Jews.

### **IV. Jewish worship:**

- 1 Synagogue
2. Rabbi pastor
3. Torah -Talmud
4. Shabbat...song dance..shofar...menorah
5. Notable holidays  
Spring- Passover ...unleavened bread.... Firstfruits  
Summer- Pentecost (giving of the law)  
Fall Feasts- atonement, trumpets, tabernacles  
Winter. Hannakah. Purim
6. Bar Mitsvah. Bat Mitsvah
7. Tallit
8. Kefir

### **V. The Jewish Land of Israel Reborn**

On May 1, 1948, Israel became a nation again. David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir would lead the new country.

In 1948 the Arab world declared war on Israel. They lost and declared an armistice in February 1949.

In 1956 under Nasser, Egypt and other Arab nations declared war and lost.

In 1967 the six day war soundly defeated the Arab nation.

In 1973 Egypt declared war on the Day of Atonement, Yom Kipper! Egypt under Anwar Sadat attacked Israel. Again they lost and the Jews took all of Jerusalem.

Egypt made a peace until Hillary Clinton installed Mohamed Morsi. The Egyptian army overthrew him and now peace has been restored.

### The West Bank Issue

Cities like Bethlehem and Jericho are on the West Bank. Formerly occupied by Jordan, Israel annexed it during the 6 day war!

### Restoration

Israel is the only nation ever restored.

Shekel is the only currency ever restored.

Hebrew now lives again as a language.

### Sign of the Time

Let us look at some prophecies of the Jews restoration.

#### **Amos 9:11-14**

**"On that day I will raise up  
The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down,  
And repair its damages;  
I will raise up its ruins,  
And rebuild it as in the days of old;  
12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom,  
And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,"  
Says the Lord who does this thing.**

**13 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord,**

***"When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,  
And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;  
The mountains shall drip with sweet wine,  
And all the hills shall flow with it.  
14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel;  
They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them;  
They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them;  
They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.***

**Luke 21:20-36**

***"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.***

***25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."***

***29 Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.***

***34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and***

**that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."**

**Romans 11:11-15**

**I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. 12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!**

**13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. 15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?**

**Romans 11:24-26**

**For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?**

**25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:**

**"The Deliverer will come out of Zion,  
And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;**

**Romans 11:32-36**

**For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.**

**33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!**

**34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord?  
Or who has become His counselor?"**

**35 'Or who has first given to Him  
And it shall be repaid to him?"**

**36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to  
whom be glory forever. Amen.**

**Revelation 7:1-10**

**After these things I saw four angels standing at the four  
corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that  
the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any  
tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east,  
having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice  
to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth  
and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the  
trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their  
foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of those who were  
sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of  
the children of Israel were sealed:**

**5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;  
6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;  
7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;  
8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.**

**A Multitude from the Great Tribulation**

**9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude  
which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and  
tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb,  
clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10  
and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to  
our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"**

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **NOTABLE JEWS**

1. Benjamin Disraeli – bought the Suez Canal for England from Ismail Pasha an Egyptian. A Great diplomat.
2. Chaim Weizmann, a Jew, made gun powder from chestnuts saving the Britain Empire in WWI.
3. Albert Einstein – A Jew
4. Sigmund Freud – A Jew

Think of the Jewish people ability to gain wealth.

5. They invented banking under a Jew named Aaron of Lincoln in 1125 A.D.
6. Modern capitalism was started by the house of Rothschild during the time of the American Revolution. The Rothschild's started and built the European and Russian railroads beginning in 1825.
7. Columbus – a Messianic Jew – read the Zohar which said the earth was round and rotated. It was Jewish science! Jews fled the Inquisition on Columbus' ships.
8. William Herschel discovered Uranus, the first planet discovered in modern times. Astronomer Royal of England discovered the first binary stars and catalogued thousands of them. Discovered the motion of our solar system.
9. Fritz Cohn mapped the orbits of the planets
10. Albert Michelson determined the speed of light
11. Jonas Salk – polio vaccine
12. Selman Abraham Worksman discovered the antibiotic streptomycin - still used as an antibiotic
13. American Medical Association now founded by Isaac Hays
14. U. S. History

Haym Salomon financed the American Revolution with \$200,000 dollars, was never paid back and died bankrupt.

Thanksgiving – originally to parallel Yom Kippur

Ben Franklin, George Washington, and the great seal of the United States

Both the first synagogue and the First Baptist Church in America were opened in Rhode Island!

## 15. Entertainment

Natalie Portman  
Mila Kunis  
Gene Wilder  
Helen Hunt  
Dustin Hoffman  
Sean Penn  
Robert Downey, Jr.  
Bette Midler  
Harrison Ford  
Stephen Spielberg  
Barbara Walters  
"Macho man" Randy Savage  
Paula Abdul  
Julia Louis-Dreyfus  
Sammy Davis, Jr.  
Goldie Hawn  
Larry King  
Joaquin Phoenix  
Jodie Foster  
Kirk Douglas  
Michael Douglas  
Ben Stiller  
Gwyneth Paltrow  
Sarah Jessica Parker  
Marilyn Monroe (Norma Jeane Mortenson)  
Irvin Berlin