## **The Origins of Judaism:**

It originates from over 3500 years ago in modern day Israel and Palestine territory. It originated from a practice called “Israel.” The current day Judaism is only immersed in the 1st century CE. The religion is based upon “God and Abraham” primarily - God choose Abraham to be the father of isaac, the founder of the jewish people(he was born in 1813 BCE) According to the torah and old testament

## **Holy Texts:**

[**https://embassies.gov.il/hong-kong/AboutIsrael/People/Pages/Jewish-Sacred-Texts.aspx#:~:text=At%20the%20basis%20of%20all,Egypt%2C%20the%20 revelation%20 at%20 Mt**](https://embassies.gov.il/hong-kong/AboutIsrael/People/Pages/Jewish-Sacred-Texts.aspx#:~:text=At%20the%20basis%20of%20all,Egypt%2C%20the%20revelation%20at%20Mt)**.**

**Torah** - the pentateuch - the five books of Moses which tell the story or creation, god and abraham and his descendants “the Exodus from Egypt, the revelation at Mt. Sinai (where God enunciated the Ten Commandments), the wanderings of the Israelites in the desert, and a recapitulation of that experience shortly before the entrance to the Promised Land.”

**old testament of the bible —**

The Jewish Bible is known in Hebrew as the *Tanakh*, an acronym of the three sets of books which comprise it: the Pentateuch (*Torah*), the Prophets (*Nevi'im*) and the Writings (*Ketuvim*). The latter two include nineteen compilations, largely in Hebrew but with certain books of the *Ketuvim* also containing extensive portions in Aramaic, which were composed over a period of centuries - from shortly before the Israelite conquest of the Land of Israel (13th century BCE) to shortly after the return to Judah and Jerusalem from the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE).

The books of the Prophets contain historical writings covering the period between the settlement of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel and their exile to Babylon, as well as the moral and religious exhortations of the Prophets (among them Jeremiah, Isaiah and Ezekiel)The *Tanakh* is the Jewish canon, which assumed its final shape between the Babylonian exile and the first century CE. The sages who took part in the finalization of the canon excluded certain texts, known as the Apocrypha and the Pseudepigrapha, which they did not consider divinely inspired. The Jewish canon is distinguished from the Christian canon in the non-inclusion of the New Testament and a slightly different order of presentation of the Prophets. Copyists of canon literature for ritual use in synagogues work with ancient tools (parchment and quill pens) and take the greatest care to avoid modifying the text in any way. The oldest known parchments (the Dead Sea Scrolls, produced shortly before the Common Era) are virtually identical to those produced today.

## **God:**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judaism#:~:text=Judaism%20thus%20begins%20with%20ethical,his%20offspring%20a%20great%20nation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judaism#:~:text=Judaism%20thus%20begins%20with%20ethical,his%20offspring%20a%20great%20nation)**.**

**ethical monotheism**: the belief that God is one and is concerned with the actions of mankind

## **The holy texts pt2**

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/bible-ultimate-authority/question7-jewish-view-of-authority-of-scripture.cfm>

Different branches of judaism take the book more or less literally

Orthodox

Jewish people usually believe that only the Hebrew scripture of the old testament (not old to them bc they dont recognize the new )-- it alone is the sacred scripture

They have rejected Jesus as the messiah and are still awaiting

“While the Jews have only accepted the Hebrew Scripture as God’s divinely inspired Word, they do not limit God’s truth to these writings alone. Along with the written Scripture, the Jews have a long history of non-written, or “oral tradition.” This unwritten tradition deals with all aspects of Jewish belief and practice. From the books of Moses, the Jews have derived rules for daily life. This is known as the halakah which literally means “way of life.” This has become the main source for their beliefs.``

“The traditions and teachings of the Jewish sages now have equal value with the Scripture. The Jews believe that the entire revelation of God to humanity is not limited to one book. Unwritten tradition has always been a means to interpret and apply Scripture. Thus, the oral law was assumed to have the same authority as the written law.”

good works, instead of sacrifices, became the basis of their faith.

The consequence of placing tradition on an equal level with Scripture is that the Scripture is not the final authority where matters of belief and practice are settled. To the contrary, the Scripture is looked at as the foundation of truth, but the written traditions have become as authoritative as, or more authoritative than, written Scripture. This is a major distinction between the Jewish view of where authority rests and the Protestant position.

Typically the bible/ text are not to be taken completely literally and are up for interpretation

## **The Ultimate goal:**

<https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/dvar-torah/goal-life/>

<http://spiritualworld.org/judaism/goal.htm>

* To live lives in harmony with god by transcending human limits, connecting with god and joining the jewish peoples prophets,priests,kings, heroes, sages and ones who wrote the torah

How to get to that ultimate goal:

* Embody the Torah and making spiritual and ethical insights into the foundation of our lives / use the jewish teaching to change and improve our own way of life
* Work to become isaacs legacy

## **Rituals Rules and Practices:**

* <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/religions/judaism/resources/judaism-rituals-and-practices>

-Circumcision (Brit Milah) — tradition for birth

- Religious Adulthood (Bar/Bat Mitzvah)- when you turn 13 a ceremony to celebrate adulthood

- Ritual Bath (Mikveh)-- cleansing/purifying bath before major festivals(not everyone does this )

- Prayer (Tefillah)- recitations and contemplations. Some may pray three times a day within specific time ranges (*zmanim*); *shacharit* (morning prayer), *mincha* (afternoon prayer) and *ma’ariv* (evening prayer).

- Some stricker sects of jews(orthodox) avoid saying the word god

- Charity (Tzedakah)- Many traditional Jewish homes have a pushke, which is a collection box for coins to be offered as charity to the less fortunate. There are many ways Jewish people act charitably. For example, donating to health care institutions, synagogues, supporting one’s children beyond the age when a parent is legally required to or supporting one’s aging parents. - one may give to any cause

- Weekly Observance (Shabbat)--‘*Shabbat*’ refers to the day of rest and holiness observed by many Jewish people. Shabbat begins on the sunset of Friday and ends at nightfall on the following day. This day is dedicated to rest and spiritual enrichment, Jewish people practice two interrelated commands: to remember (*zachor*) and observe (*shamor*) Shabbat. On Shabbat, people may meet at their local synagogue to attend a service and socialize. And some people chose to stay home/ lighting candles and partaking in a shared meal.

Holidays:<https://www.umass.edu/orsl/about-jewish-holidays>

* **Rosh Hashanah**

The Jewish New Year, the beginning of ten days of penitence or *teshuvah* culminating on Yom Kippur. Traditionally celebrated with sweet or round foods such as apples and honey, and the blowing of the *shofar*, a hollowed-out ram's horn, during religious services. A customary greeting is *shanah tovah* or "happy new year!"

* **Yom Kippur**

The Day of Atonement; a very solemn day devoted to fasting, prayer, and repentance. Observant Jews do not eat, drink (including water), bathe, engage in sexual activity, or wear anything made of leather on this day of awe.

* **Sukkot**

The week-long harvest festival commemorates the dwelling of the Israelites in temporary booths (*sukkot* in Hebrew) during their 40-year sojourn in the Sinai desert. Many families build their own *sukkah* in which it is customary to eat meals and sleep, and to shake the *lulav*, a palm frond bound together with myrtle and willow branches, and the *etrog*, a kind of citrus (pictured here, growing in the Smith College greenhouse, where it is identified as a "Moroccan citrus").  *Photo of etrog by Larry Goldbaum.*

* **Shemini Atzeret**

Although technically a separate holiday, Shemini Atzeret (or the "Eighth Day of Assembly") is in effect the final day of Sukkot. The last portion of the Torah is read on this day. Observant Jews do not work or travel on this *yom tov* or "holy day."

* **Simchat Torah**

Shemini Atzeret is immediately followed by the joyous holiday of Simchat Torah—or "rejoicing of the Law"—which is traditionally celebrated by dancing with Torah scrolls and singing *hakafot*, songs of praise and gratitude.

* **Hanukkah**

The eight-day festival of Hanukkah—or "Festival of Lights"—commemorates the miraculous victory of the Maccabees and rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. Hanukkah is NOT the Jewish equivalent of Christmas!! In fact, it is a relatively minor Jewish holiday (in religious terms) which unlike most other Jewish holidays, has no restrictions whatsoever on work or travel—although many Jewish families and communities get together to celebrate this festive holiday. It is customary to eat fried foods such as potato *latkes* or jelly doughnuts. *Photo of Hanukkah menorah (or 'chanukiah' in Hebrew) by Larry Goldbaum*

* **Purim**

This carnival-like holiday celebrates the defeat of a plot to destroy the Jews of Persia. It is customary to dress in costumes (similar to Halloween or Mardi Gras), and to give gifts of food to friends and the needy, particularly *hamantashen*, triangular pastries filled with fruit or poppy seeds.

* **Passover** (or *Pesach* in Hebrew)

The week-long spring festival of Pesach commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people from bondage in ancient Egypt. The Passover Seder on the first two nights—an elaborate and ritualized meal—recounts the story of Exodus using ritual foods, prayers, stories and songs. Only the first two and last two days of Passover are observed as full holy days, with restrictions on work and travel. However, many extended Jewish families gather for the holiday, and consequently some Jewish students may miss the entire week of classes. (In Israel, schools are always closed for Passover.)

* **Shavuot**

Feast of Weeks; marks the giving of the Law (Torah) at Mt Sinai.

## **Those who don’t believe:**

* <https://www.jewishboston.com/read/why-doesnt-judaism-promote-conversion-whereas-other-faiths-do/>
* It is possible for anyone to join judaism and converting is relatively easily and very accepted
* Judaism does not actively seek to proselytize and promote conversion in the same way other particular religious groups seek converts. There are most likely two reasons Jews do not actively proselytize: one reason is rooted in theology and the other in history and politics.
* Some religious groups(Christianity and Islam)base their theological beliefs on the fact that to achieve salvation(accepted into heaven- you MUST be Christian or Muslim). Judaism teaches that the righteous of all nations have a share in the world to come. Therefore, most Jews believe you do not have to be Jewish to have a relationship with God or “go to heaven.” So they do not often seek converts in order to ensure they are provided with a pathway to God and the afterlife.
* Historically, Jews did not maintain control over large areas of land or govern large nations; they were instead minorities, and sometimes hated minorities, in the places they lived. For the non-Jew, converting to Judaism would often be unsafe; proselytizing would have endangered the Jewish community’s precarious status with the local government. In some places, the local Christian or Muslim authorities mandated that conversion to Judaism was illegal.
* “Asking someone you care about to consider conversion is simply an invitation. It is not coercion or pressure. It is an expression of valuing the individual and a desire to share a tradition that you consider precious.”
* Converting is about love, Judaism is not about forcing or pushing their religion onto you but about opening a conversation and welcoming others.

## **Why should someone become jewish:**

* [**https://reformjudaism.org/beliefs-practices/lifecycle-rituals/conversion/choosing-judaism**](https://reformjudaism.org/beliefs-practices/lifecycle-rituals/conversion/choosing-judaism)
* You should convert because you don’t have to, judaism is a very open, accepting and patient religion
* They are willing to take their time and are happy to have you learn about the religion, experience the community and learn about them and yourself along the way
* Judaism is a very
* Most rabbi are very open to anyone joining, you do not have to be born into the religion to be happily accepted.
* It does take work to convert but you will have a lot of support from the community
* Although being jewish is both religious and ethnic there is nothing preventing one from converting and being integrated in the culture

## **Misconceptions about the jewish religion:**

* <https://ltlre.org/common-misconceptions/teaching-judaism-some-common-misconceptions-david-hampshire/>
* Judaism can be taught through the old testament of the bible: Jewish readings of the hebrew bible are completely different than the old testament of the Christian bible
* Passoving is an equivalent to easter: no… there is no link between the two, The Passover Seder Jews celebrate today dates from the 16th century and was a result of the printing revolution
* Hanuka is jewish christmas: NO it is actually a more minor holiday and has not relation
* All Jews follow the religion: No Jews are both an ethnic group and religious group.. There are many jews who do not practice. The issue of Jewish identity is complex, usually you are considered Jewish if your mother is Jewish. Liberal Jews, though, accept you as Jewish if you have one Jewish parent and are brought up as Jewish. If you have two Jewish parents and are not brought up as Jewish you are not Jewish according to Liberal Judaism. The State of Israel allows you to live in Israel if you have one Jewish grandparent or was married to a Jew. It is so complex because Jews were understood to be a ‘racial’ not just a ‘religious’ group by the Nazis and this has caused a broadening of the definition of what it is to be Jewish in light of the terrible events of the Holocaust.

## Rabbis are ministers of religion and a synagogue needs one!: not necessarily, Rabbis are experts in Jewish Law. Until recently it was quite rare for a synagogue to have a Rabbi unless they needed to have someone make decisions about Jewish Law – such as whether your chickens were kosher or not.

## **Extremes Within the religion:**

* Orthodox Judaism is often considered the extreme

Judaism is a monotheistic religion which believes in the one transcendent God who revealed themselves to Abraham, Moses and other Hebrew prophets. The Jewish religion largely centers their beliefs, laws and cultural practices around scriptures, like the Torah and the Jewish bible. Although the word presented through scripture is important , Judaism does not rely on these alone. Oral and cultural traditions passed through generations influence the practice.

Go to a local synagogue

Talk to a rabbi about Judaism

Research what you need to do to convert

Listen/Read about people who have converted

Listen to a podcast

Read the religious texts

Pitch; 2 min max I wanna fucking die

~~~250 words

Layout: