



IDX G9 History S
Study Guide Issue S1 Midterm
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Judaism

Origins of Judaism

Founding Groups: (about 4000 years ago)

- Ancient Israelites (Hebrews) in Fertile Crescent
- It became a defining feature of their culture

Key Belief Distinction:

-Monotheistic (worshipping one all-knowing, all-powerful God) --unique among nearby peoples who practiced polytheism (worshipping many gods) at the time.

Core Texts & Manuscripts:

-Torah: Judaism's most sacred text, containing the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. It records God's laws, history, and teaching for the Israelites.

-Hebrew Bible: Consists of 24 books (later expanded in the Christian Old Testament). The Talmud (oral law and interpretation) is another key later text.

Dead Sea Scrolls:

-Discovered in 1947 near the Dead Sea, these are the oldest known texts of the Hebrew Bible (~2000years old). Written on papyrus/leather, they were stored in caves and are critical for studying ancient Judaism.

Central Stories

Abraham's Migration: (Per the Torah, Abraham, the "father of the Israelites" moved from -Ur (Mesopotamia) to Canaan with his family ~2000 B.C.E.)

- God's Covenant with the Israelites

- God made a binding agreement with Abraham:

- The Israelites would be God's Chosen people (a special relationship with God)

Rise & Fall of the Israelite Kingdom

Kingdom Unification:

- By 1000 B.C.E, king David united the 12 Israelite tribes into a single kingdom, his son Solomon built Jerusalem as the capital (including a grand temple dedicated to God) and expanded Israel's influence.

- After Solomon's death the kingdom split into Israel and Judah.

- Israel fell to the Assyrians; Judah was conquered by Babylon, leading to the Babylonian Captivity

- The Persians freed the Israelites and many returned to Judah (rebuilding a smaller temple) Those who scattered globally formed the Diaspora.

Legacy

- Judaism is one of the world's major monotheistic religions, influencing both Christianity and Islam (All three honor Abraham, Moses and the prophets)

Ancient Greece

Early Aegean Civilizations:

- Minoans

- Flourished via trade across the Mediterranean; absorbed ideas/tech from Egypt/Mesopotamia.

-Culture: Palaces with colorful frescoes (showing sea life, women with relative freedom)
religion focused on goddess.

Rise of Greek City-States (Polis):

- Geographic Influence
- Greece's mountains/islands split people into isolated communities - small, independent city-states (polis: city surrounding countryside)
- Sea: Provided trade/transport; Greeks adopted the Phoenician alphabets, spreading culture across the Mediterranean

Government Evolution:

- Monarchy: Ruled by kings
- Aristocracy: Ruled by wealthy landowning elites
- Oligarchy: Ruled by a small group of wealthy citizens
- Democracy: Ruled by citizens

Sparta:

Structure:

- Citizens (Spartans) controlled (enslaved laborers)
- Daily life: Total discipline - boys trained as soldiers from childhood; Girls trained for fitness.
- Isolation: Rejected trade/art; focused on military; women had property rights (Unusual for Greece)

Athens

Democracy:

- Created a council of 500 and an assembly (all male citizens voted on laws)
- Restriction: Only free, native-born men are citizens; women, slaves and foreigners had no political rights.

Athenian Life:

- Women: Confined to home; managed households but had no public role.
- Education: Wealthy boys studied reading, writing, and athletics; girls learned household skills at home.

Forces for Greek Unity:

- Shared culture: Common language, myths (polytheistic religion: gods on Mount Olympus)
- Barbarians: Greeks viewed non-Greek speakers as uncivilized, fostering a shared identity.

Persian & Peloponnesian Wars:

- Persians Wars: Greeks defeated Persia (Key battles: Marathon, Salamis)
- Peloponnesian War: Athens vs. Sparta. Sparta won, Athens declined.

Athenian Democracy (Pericles' Age):

- Direct Democracy: Citizens voted directly in the Assembly; Council of 500; juries.
- Limits: Only adult male citizens had rights.

Art & Architecture:

- Idealism: focused on balanced order, and perfect form. Sculptures showed idealized human figures.

Greek Literature & Drama:

- Tragedy: Playwrights explored moral conflicts
- Comedy: Aristophanes mocked society/politics

Alexander the Great:

- Conquests: Inherited Macedonian throne, conquered Persia, Egypt, India.
- Death: Empire split into 3 kingdoms.
- Legacy: Spread Greek culture across Eurasia.

Greek Theater:

- Golden Age: Open-air amphitheaters; tragedies/comedies
- Legacy: Influenced modern drama