**Vocabulary**

*Introduction to Religious Studies*

Fall 2020

# Abrahamic: Judaism

Ashkenazic

vs. Sephardic a Jewish diaspora population who coalesced in the Holy Roman Empire around the end of the first millennium. The traditional diaspora language of Ashkenazi Jews is Yiddish, developed after they had moved into northern Europe: beginning with Germany and France in the Middle Ages.

Sephardic

the term Sephardim has today also come sometimes to refer to traditionally Eastern Jewish communities of West Asia

ghetto

a part of a city, especially a slum area, occupied by a minority group or groups; the Jewish quarter in a city; first used in 16th c. in Christian Venice.

haggadah

“narrative”; sacred stories in the Jewish tradition.

halakhah

in Judaism, the totality of laws and ordinances that have evolved since biblical times to regulate religious observances and the daily life and conduct of the Jewish people. Quite distinct from the Law, or the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible

hasidism

an influential mystical Jewish movement founded in Poland in the 18th century in reaction to the rigid academicism of rabbinical Judaism. The movement declined sharply in the 19th century, but fundamentalist communities developed from it, and Hasidism is still a force in Jewish life, particularly in Israel and New York.

Mashiach

The Hebrew word “Mashiach,” meaning Messiah, means “the one anointed with oil.” The custom of anointing with oil is a ritual act designed to elevate those designated for priestly, royal or sometimes even prophetic roles (such as the prophet Elisha).

Messiah

God’s anointed or chosen servant;

mitzvoth

any of the collection of 613 commandments or precepts in the Bible and additional ones of rabbinic origin that relate chiefly to the religious and moral conduct of Jews.

Passover

spring holiday and their rituals in Jewish tradition; celebrates the **Exodus**

phylactery

a small leather box containing Hebrew texts on vellum, worn by Jewish men at morning prayer as a reminder to keep the law.

Talmud

the body of Jewish civil and ceremonial law and legend comprising the Mishnah and the Gemara. There are two versions of the Talmud: the Babylonian Talmud (which dates from the 5th century AD but includes earlier material) and the earlier Palestinian or Jerusalem Talmud.

Torah

the “instruction” of God in Judaism; the first five books of the Bible

tshuvah

Repentance (*Hebrew*) literally, “return” - tefillin :: is a set of small black leather boxes containing scrolls of parchment inscribed with verses from the Torah. Tefillin is worn by observant adult Jews during weekday morning prayers.

YHWH

, four-letter Hebrew word, the name of the biblical God of Israel