



JUDAISM

Outline

- What is Judaism?
- The Hebrew Bible (Torah or Tanakh)
 - *Major themes*
- The Covenant with God

Getting deducted marks back

- Those who lost 25 marks for incorrect citations and have not sent in your corrections
- The ONLY marks that can be recovered are the two 25 mark penalties for:
 1. Not using quotation marks around direct quotations, and
 2. Not providing a page number for Nye

Citations: quotation marks used for any text taken word-for-word from Nye's book	25 marks*
Citations: page number included whenever Nye's book is quoted or whenever an idea from Nye's book is explained	25 marks*

What is Judaism?

- Traces its origins to the ancient Middle East

Possible Route from Mesopotamia to Canaan



What is Judaism?

- Traces its origins to the ancient Middle East
- A national or ethnic religion in antiquity
- Israel and Jerusalem historically important



Where is Judaism?

- Prior to the Holocaust, apr. 17 million Jews globally, over 9 million in Europe
- Apr. 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis in Holocaust
- World population around 13 million by 1970s, but has largely not grown since due to low fertility and assimilation

Where is Judaism now?

- Apr. 13 million Jewish people in the world
- Apr. 6 million live in Israel/Palestine
- Apr. 5 million live in the USA
- Canada's Jewish population apr. 400,000 (3rd highest in the world)

What is Judaism... again?

- Judaism is a religion that centres around God's agreement with his chosen people
- In other words...
- God's *covenant* with the Jewish people
- What is a covenant?
- This covenant is established and re-established several times in the major sacred text of Judaism, the *Tanakh*

Tanakh

- Also known as:
 - The Hebrew Bible
 - The Torah
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- Might be known as but *should not* be called
 - The Old Testament
 - Suggests that the teachings of the “old” testament have been superseded by the “New” testament

Tanakh: Collection and Composition

- Contains stories that cover mythic and historical periods from the beginning of creation to the 2nd century BCE
- *Collection and composition* of stories began in Babylon 586-538 BCE
- Continued into the first centuries BCE

- World created (3760 BCE)
- Noah and flood (c. 2000 BCE)
- Life of Abraham (c. 1700-1600 BCE)
- Arrival in Egypt (c. 1500 BCE)
- Exodus (c. 1300 BCE)
- Arrive in Judah (c. 1260 BCE)
- Conquest of Judah (c. 1260-1000 BCE)
- Kingdom of David, First Temple, fall of Northern Kingdom (c. 1000—720 BCE)
- Fall of Judah and Exile to Babylon (c. 586-539 BCE)

Notable People

- Adam and Eve
- Noah
- Abraham
- Cain and Abel
- Moses
- King David
- King Solomon

Important Stories

- Creation
- The Flood
- Tower of Babel
- Sacrifice of Isaac
- Escape from Egypt
- Foundation of Kingdoms of Judah and Israel
- Destruction of Solomon's Temple and exile of Jews from Israel

Tanakh

- Made up of three sections:
- Torah or Pentateuch (the five books of Moses)
- The Nevi'im (Prophets)
- The Ketuvim (Writings)

Pentateuch

- Contains some of the most well-known biblical stories
- The Garden of Eden (Genesis 2-3)
- The Flood and Noah (Genesis 7-9)
- Moses and the Escape from Egypt (Exodus)
- The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5)

Important Themes

- God's covenant with the Jewish people
- Exile from and return to the Holy Land

God's covenant

- With Noah
- With Abraham
- With Moses
- With the Priesthood
- With David

The Breaking of God's covenant

- This is a major theme of the Hebrew Bible
- God makes a covenant with his people on the condition they do not do X, Y, and Z
- His people start doing X, Y, and Z
- They suffer and are subjugated, usually under an invading army

Pentateuch

Also contains many **foundational myths**

- Creation of the world
- Second creation of the world
- God's covenant with his people
- The requirement of circumcision
- The establishment of Passover

Creation

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

First Creation of Humans

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Second Account of Human Creation: The Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:7 then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Expulsion from Eden

- First human: a man named Adam
- Second human: a woman named Eve created from Adam's rib
- God told them to eat anything they like, except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- So what do you think they did as soon as God wasn't looking?

Disobedience

- Major theme of Hebrew Bible
- Related to both breaking of the covenants
- And, to exile and return

Humanity is wicked

Genesis 6:5-8 The LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, “I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created—people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD.

God's Covenant (agreement) with Noah

- Humanity is wicked and sinful and God seeks to destroy them
- God loves, warns, and spares Noah and his family
- After the flood, God establishes a covenant with Noah and his sons

God's Covenant (agreement) with Noah

Genesis 9:8-17

- I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”
- The rainbow the sign of God's covenant

Covenant with Abraham

- Genesis 15:18-21 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”



Signs of the Covenant

- Genesis 17
- God promises to make Abraham the father of many nations and give him the land of Canaan
- To show that his offspring are keeping the covenant, they all must **circumcise the foreskin**
- This is the sign of the covenant
- “Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

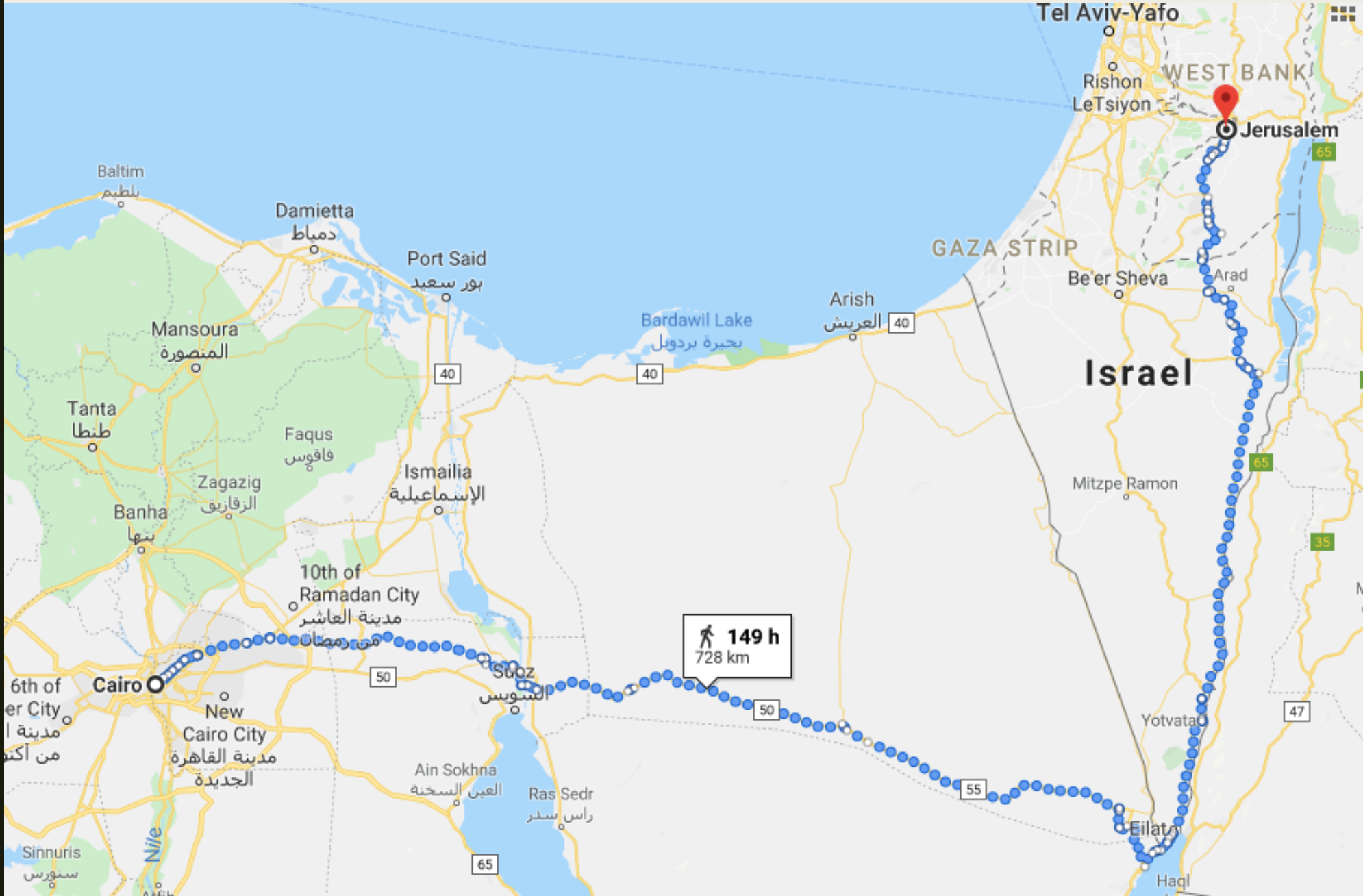
Exodus

- Jews migrated to Egypt
- Initially everything was cool
- But then they were enslaved
- Moses leads them out of Egypt
- When Pharaoh refused to let the Jews go, God cursed Egypt with plagues

Passover

- For the final plague, the angel of death descended and killed all the firstborn sons of Egypt
- Jews were instructed to paint their doors with lamb's blood so that the angel of death would pass over their house
- Mythical origins of the Passover meal which commemorates the Jews' escape from Egypt

Wandering in the Wilderness



Moses did not have google maps

This journey took 40 years... somehow

The Law



- While wandering in the wilderness, Moses receives 10 Commandments from God

- This is the Mosaic covenant

- First Commandment:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

The Law: Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

- When asked, most people would say that there are 10 Commandments in the Hebrew Bible
- Actually, add 603 to that and you're there
- The last three books of the Pentateuch contain 613 commandments