

# The Origins of Judaism and Christianity

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A brief study of world religions

# Today's Learning Goals

Identify what basic ideas Judaism and Christianity have in common

Explain the covenant between god and Abraham

Re-tell the story of Abraham and his son, Isaac

What do they  
have in common?

# Major similarities between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

- Monotheistic
- Similar stories in holy texts (Adam, Abraham, Noah, Moses)
- Belief in prophets
- Struggle of good vs. evil
- Origins in the Southwest Asia
- Both Christianity and Islam are founded on the Jewish faith.

What is a  
covenant?

# Covenant:

A covenant is an agreement between two parties. There are two basic types of covenants: conditional and unconditional. A conditional or bilateral covenant is an agreement that is binding on both parties for its fulfillment. Both parties agree to fulfill certain conditions. If either party fails to meet their responsibilities, the covenant is broken and neither party has to fulfill the expectations of the covenant. An unconditional or unilateral covenant is an agreement between two parties, but only one of the two parties has to do something. Nothing is required of the other party.

# There are three main features to the Abrahamic Covenant:

- 1. The promise of land** (Genesis 12:1). God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees to a land that He would give him (Genesis 12:1). This promise is reiterated in Genesis 13:14–18 where it is confirmed by a shoe covenant; its dimensions are given in Genesis 15:18–21 (precluding any notion of this being fulfilled in heaven). The land aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant is expanded in Deuteronomy 30:1–10, which is the Palestinian Covenant.
- 2. The promise of descendants** (Genesis 12:2). God promised Abraham that He would make a great nation out of him. Abraham, who was 75 years old and childless (Genesis 12:4), was promised many descendants. This promise is amplified in Genesis 17:6 where God promised that nations and kings would descend from the aged patriarch. This promise (which is expanded in the Davidic Covenant of 2 Samuel 7:12–16) would eventuate in the Davidic throne with Messiah's kingdom rule over the Hebrew people.
- 3. The promise of blessing and redemption** (Genesis 12:3). God promised to bless Abraham and the families of the earth through him. This promise is amplified in the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31–34; cf. Hebrews 8:6–13) and has to do with "Israel's spiritual blessing and redemption." Jeremiah 31:34 anticipates the forgiveness of sin. The unconditional and eternal nature of the covenant is seen in that the covenant is reaffirmed to Isaac (Genesis 21:12; 26:3–4). The "I will" promises again suggest the unconditional aspect of the covenant. The covenant is later confirmed to Jacob (Genesis 28:14–15). It is noteworthy that God reaffirmed these promises amid the sins of the patriarchs, which fact further emphasizes the unconditional nature of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Abraham- a  
spotlight

# See your notes

To be entered

# The Commandments and The prophets

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# The Story of Moses

1. A famine swept the land
2. The descendants of Abraham (called Hebrews) moved to Egypt
3. The Egyptians eventually enslaved the Hebrews
4. Moses was sent by god to free the Hebrews and lead them out of Egypt
  - a. Ten plagues
  - b. Parting of the Red Sea
  - c. Wandering in the desert

# The Ten Commandments

- I am the LORD thy God
- Thou shalt have no other gods, No graven images or likenesses
- Not take the LORD's name in vain
- Remember the sabbath day
- Honour thy father and thy mother
- Thou shalt not kill
- Thou shalt not commit adultery
- Thou shalt not steal
- Thou shalt not bear false witness
- Thou shalt not covet

# The Torah

Five books-

Genesis

Exodus

Numbers

Leviticus

Deuteronomy

# The Prophets

What happened after Moses?

1. Establishment of the Kingdom of Israel
  2. King David
  3. King Saul
  4. Tragedy for the Hebrews
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# The Prophets

**Prophet-** in the Bible, a person inspired by god

Warned of disasters to come as punishment

Drew attention to social injustices

Taught of the all-encompassing power of god- omnipotence

**Included:**

Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Elijah, Nathan, etc.

# The Return to Jerusalem

Important Figures:

Cyrus of Persia

Alexander the Great of Macedonia

Judas Maccabeus

Roman Empire

...the hope for a messiah (a savior sent by god)



# Vocabulary activity

Please define each term and also give a specific example from our studies.

Example:

Monotheism- Monotheism is a religious belief in only one divine being. Judaism is an example of monotheism.

Terms:

Scripture

Covenant

Monotheism

Sacrifice

Patriarch

Prophet

Messiah

# The Life of Jesus

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# Where did he come from?

- A miraculous birth
- Born in Bethlehem
- Visited John the Baptist
- Was baptised
- Went into desert to pray and fast for 40 days and nights



# Central ideas and moral teachings

Teachings and more collected in Christian text called the New Testament

-Disciples (12)

Taught moral lessons using parables (brief story designed to make a moral point)

-The Prodigal Son

Conducted miracles

-Cured the sick

-restored hearing and sight

-raised the dead

-multiplied fish and bread

The Sermon the Mount (Beatitudes)

# The Two Great Commandments

When asked which of the commandments was most important...

“Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

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# Final Events in Jesus' Life

According to the New Testament:

Goes to Jerusalem for Passover

Has a “Last Supper” with his disciples

Goes to pray. Judas (a disciple) betrays Jesus in exchange for silver.

Jesus is put on trial for claiming to be a king (a treason within the Roman Empire)

Is stripped, whipped, crowned with thorns, then crucified and finally dies

Three days later his body vanishes. He is resurrected and returned to heaven

He is said to be not just human, but the son of god. He promises a new covenant between God and all of humanity.

# Sequence of Events and Important Places

Arrange the following significant Jewish and Christian events in sequence:

- God enters in a covenant with Abraham
- Abraham nearly sacrifices his son, Isaac
- Hebrews go to Egypt
- Moses leads the Hebrews out of Egypt
- God gives Moses the Ten Commandments
- David battles Goliath
- David becomes king
- Israel splits into two kingdoms
- Many Jews are taken into captivity by conquerors
- Cyrus of Persia allows the Jews to return to Jerusalem
- Jesus is born in Bethlehem
- Jesus travels and teaches
- Jesus is crucified
- Jesus is resurrected

# The Rise and Spread of Christianity

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Part 4 of a brief study of world religions, the final chapter

# Initial Challenges

# The Spread

# The Apostle Paul

# Becoming a Major Religion