



Origins of Judaism

The origins of Judaism date back more than 3500 years. This religion is rooted in the ancient near eastern region of Canaan (which today constitutes Israel and the Palestinian territories). Judaism emerged from the beliefs and practices of the people known as “Israel”. What is considered classical, or *rabbinical*, Judaism did not emerge until the 1st century CE.

Judaism traces its origins to the covenant God made with Abraham and his lineage—that God would make them a sacred people and give them a land. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam share this Abrahamic heritage and are often referred to as being Abrahamic religions. In other words, they all claim descent from the practices of the ancient Israelites and the worship of the “God of Abraham”. The primary figures of Israelite culture include the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the prophet Moses, who received God’s *Torah* at Mount Sinai.

Historically, Judaism went from being a religion practiced primarily in and around the lands that are modern Israel up to the year 70 CE to one practiced in lands beyond due to the exile and forced dispersal of Jews. It also evolved from a religion centered in religious practice in the two great temples, to *rabbinic* Judaism and religious worship and education in synagogues.






Rabbinic Judaism has been the mainstream form of Judaism since the 1st century. It is based on the belief that Moses received God’s *Torah* in two forms; the *Written Torah* (*Pentateuch*) and an oral explanation, known as the *Oral Torah*, that Moses transmitted to the people.

Rabbinic Judaism contrasts with Sadducees, Karaite Judaism, and Samaritanism, which do not recognize the oral law as a divine authority nor the *rabbinic* procedures used to interpret Jewish scripture.

Judaism is a tradition grounded in the religious, ethical, and social laws as they are articulated in the *Torah*—the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. Jews refer to the Bible as the *Tanakh*, an acronym for the texts of the *Torah*, *Prophets*, and *Writings*. Other sacred texts include the *Talmud* and *Midrash*: the *rabbinic*, legal, and narrative interpretations of the *Torah*.

Rabbinic Judaism is also based on the emergence of rabbi’s as leaders, the study of the *Torah*, and thrice daily prayer.

Development of Judaism Timeline Chart *









Judaism Timeline	
 <p>2016 CE</p>	<p>Growing Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Israel</p> <p>In 2016, the Israeli population totals 8,585,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 74.8% Jews ■ 20.8% Arabs ■ 4.4% "others" (non-Arab Christians, non-Arab Muslims, and no ethnic or religious classification)
 <p>2012 CE</p>	<p>First Same -Sex Marriage in a Conservative Synagogue in Manitoba</p> <p>In 2012, Arthur Blankstein and Ken Ure were married at Shaarey Zedek synagogue in Winnipeg.</p>
 <p>2008 CE</p>	<p>Growing Jewish Diversity in Israel</p> <p>In 2008, 75.6% of the Israeli population is comprised of Jews of various backgrounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 70.3% were Sabra (born in Israel) ■ 29.7% Olim (Jewish immigrants to Israel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 20.5% were from Europe and the Americas ■ 9.2% were from Asia and Africa
 <p>2005 CE</p>	<p>Chinese Jewish Immigration</p> <p>In 2005, a privately funded conservative religious organization, began assisting Chinese decedents of Jews from the Ka Ifeng area. Because most were patrilineal decedents of Jews, in order to legally qualify to remain in Israel under the Law of Return, they were required to undergo Orthodox conversions.</p>
 <p>2000 CE</p>	<p><i>Oabru Emet</i> Statement: A New Era in Christian/Jewish Relationships</p> <p>For almost 2 millennia, Christians have had a sometimes negative and antagonistic perspective towards the Jewish faith and peoples. Since the Holocaust, there has been a dramatic shift in perspective within Christianity. Similarly, within Judaism, there is a new perspective on relationships between the two faiths. <i>Oabru Emet</i> consists of 8 statements about how Jews and Christians may relate to one another and is signed by over 150 <i>rabbis</i> and Jewish scholars from the U.S., Canada, UK, and Israel.</p>

References and resources used to compile the following timeline chart include

- Jewish Virtual Library History: Timeline for the History of Judaism: www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/timeline-for-the-history-of-judaism#
- Judaism: SoftSchools.com: www.softschools.com/timelines/judaism_timeline/377/
- Timeline NSW: www.ijs.org.au/chronology/default.aspx

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<p>1989 CE</p>	<p>Russian/Soviet Immigration Aliyah</p> <p>Immigration to Israel from the former Soviet Union began en masse in the late 1980s. Between 1989 and 2006, about 1 million Soviet Jews and their non-Jewish relatives and spouses immigrated to Israel under the Law of Return. Although they have largely integrated into Israeli society, they had a significant impact on Israeli culture, politics, and society.</p>
<p>1984 CE</p>	<p>Ethiopian Jews Immigrate to Israel</p> <p>Immigrants from the Jewish communities of Ethiopia began to immigrate to Israel. There were a few waves of immigration, with most immigrants coming during the first two Israeli government-assisted operations, Moses in 1984 and Solomon in 1991.</p>
<p>1980s CE</p>	<p>Sephardic Haredi</p> <p>Formation and spread of the Sephardic Haredi lifestyle movement began in the 1980s through <i>Rabbi Ovadia Yosef</i> alongside the establishment of the Shas party in 1984.</p>
<p>1970s CE</p>	<p>Emergence of Haredi (Ultra-Orthodox) Judaism in Israel</p> <p>Haredi Jews were almost wiped out by the Holocaust. Haredism re-emerged in the 1970s associated with the religious revival of the so-called <i>ballteshuva</i> movement.</p>
<p>1969 CE</p>	<p>Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel</p> <p>On March 19, 1969, Golda became the 4th Prime Minister of Israel after serving as Minister of Labour and Foreign Minister. Born in Ukraine, she was an Israeli teacher, <i>kibbutznik</i>, stateswoman, and politician.</p>
<p>1948 CE</p>	<p>Creation of the State of Israel</p> <p>Following the British capture of Ottoman territories and the formation of the Mandate of Palestine, aliyah (Jewish immigration to the Land of Israel) increased. This caused tensions and conflict between the Arab Palestinians and the Jews in Palestine. In 1948, partially in response to the Holocaust, the State of Israel was created when the United Nations partitioned land between Arabs and Jews and unrestricted Jewish immigration was permitted to the new state. Between 1948 and 1951, almost 700,000 Jews immigrated.</p>
<p>1935 CE</p>	<p>1935–1945 Nuremberg laws and Jewish Persecution in Germany</p> <p>Germany passed the Nuremberg Laws in September of 1935. It was the first of many such actions that took away the rights of Jewish citizens and was the start of a long period of Jewish persecution in Germany that culminated with the Holocaust. During this period, it is estimated that over 6 million Jews were systematically murdered under Nazi rule.</p>

Judaism Timeline

 <p>1897 CE</p>	<p>First World Zionist Congress</p> <p>The First Zionist Congress was the first major inter-territorial gathering of Jews to discuss the young Zionist movement. The movement hopes to establish a Jewish nation in Palestine.</p>	 <p>1839 CE</p>	<p>Reform Judaism—Adam Geiger</p> <p>Reform Judaism emerged in Europe in the late 1800s and early 1900s as a response to the major social and political changes in Europe. In 1839, Abraham Geiger joined a Breslau Jewish community and became one of Reform Judaism's strongest advocates. The movement aims to help Jews find a balance between Jewish tradition and modern developments in the wider society.</p>
 <p>1890 CE</p>	<p>First Synagogue</p> <p>Built in Winnipeg, the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue was first built on Henry Avenue and 315 King Street. Built in 1890, it was the first of many synagogues to be built in Winnipeg. It was followed three years later by Rosh Pina Synagogue also built on Henry Avenue.</p>	 <p>1759 CE</p>	<p>First Record of Jewish Residents in Canada</p> <p>Samuel Jacobs was recorded as the first Jewish resident of Quebec, and thus the first Canadian Jew. The oldest Jewish Congregation in Canada is the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue of Montreal founded in 1760.</p>
 <p>1877 CE</p>	<p>First Record of Jewish Presence in Manitoba</p> <p>The first recorded Jewish residents of Manitoba were Reuben Goldstein, a peddler, and Edmond Coblentz, a clerk, one of three brothers from Alsace-Lorraine. The 1881 Canadian census listed 33 Jews in Manitoba, 21 of them in Winnipeg.</p>	 <p>1698 CE</p>	<p>Hasidism and Rabbi Yisrael Baal Shem Tov</p> <p><i>Rabbi Yisrael Baal Shem Tov</i> was born. He goes on to found Hasidism. Hasidism is one of the most significant religious movements in Jewish history; however, it leads to divisions within Judaism. Hasidism emphasizes that by living a deeply religious life in all aspects of a person's life, anyone can grow closer to God.</p>
 <p>1863 CE</p>	<p>Oldest Surviving Synagogue in Canada</p> <p>The synagogue built for Congregation Emanu-El (Victoria, British Columbia) is the oldest surviving synagogue.</p>		
 <p>1839 CE</p>	<p>Orthodox Judaism Emerges</p> <p>Orthodox Judaism was established in mid-19th-century central Europe in response to the changes to tradition advocated by Reform Judaism. Orthodox Judaism claims to be the most faithful to classical <i>rabbinic</i> Judaism</p>		

Judaism Timeline

1492 CE

Spanish and Portuguese Inquisition

The Inquisition spread to Spain and Portugal and eventually led to mass persecution and expulsion of Jews in both countries. In 1492, Spain expelled all Jews from its borders as part of the inquisition. In 1536, the Portuguese Inquisition was launched in Portugal and led to persecution and difficult times for Jews in Portugal. By 1821, when the Portuguese inquisition was ended, most Portuguese Jews had fled Portugal.

1231 CE

Start of the Inquisition and Jewish Persecution

The official start is usually given as 1231 CE although it was actually instituted by Pope Innocent III (1198–1216) in Rome. In 1231, the pope appointed the first “inquisitors of heretical depravity.” At first, it dealt only with Christian heretics and did not interfere with Jews; however, disputes about *Maimonides’* books provided a pretext for harassing Jews. In 1242, the Inquisition condemned the *Talmud* and burned thousands of volumes. In 1288, the first mass burning of Jews on the stake took place in France.

1200 CE

Creation of the 13 Principles Maimonides

Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (Maimonides or “The Rambam”) (1135–1204 CE). The Rambam’s 13 principles of faith were formulated in his commentary on the *Mishna*. His was one of several efforts by Jewish theologians in the Middle Ages to create such a list. Maimonides’ 13 principles were controversial when first proposed but eventually were recognized by many Jewish groups.

1096 CE

European Massacre of Jews—First Crusade

After experiencing a golden age in European cities, Jews began experiencing persecution in Europe. The Crusaders, which attempted to regain control of Christian landmarks in the Holy Land, massacred Jewish citizens of European cities. This is the beginning of centuries of *pogroms* and persecution of Jews in Europe.

426 CE

Babylonian *Talmud* Completed

The *Mishna* was studied by generations of *rabbis*. These *rabbis* wrote down their discussions and commentaries on the *Mishna’s* laws in a series of books known as the *Talmud* around the year 368 CE. Later Babylonian *rabbis* compiled another version of the *Mishna* in 426 CE. The Babylon edition was more extensive than the Palestinian *Talmud* (*Talmud Bavli*) and became the most authoritative compilation of the Oral Law.

Judaism Timeline

200 CE

Mishna Compiled and Codified under Judah the Prince

The history of tragedies and persecution led Jewish academics to focus on compiling and codifying the teachings of the *rabbis*. About this time, the *Mishna* (collection of *rabbinic* teachings, sayings, and interpretations) is compiled. This is followed 300 years later by the compilation of the *Gemara*. Together, they comprise the *Talmud* (the transcription of Oral Law).

70 CE

Rabbinic Judaism

After the fall of the 2nd temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE, *Rabbinic* Judaism began to emerge as the dominant form of Judaism. *Rabbinic* Judaism has its roots in the work of the Pharisaic *rabbis* and is based on the *Talmud*. *Rabbinic* Judaism established a mode of worship and a life discipline that was and is still practiced by Jews worldwide.

66 CE

Revolts Against Rome

Jews launched the Great Revolt against Roman rulers in response to years of cruelty. The revolt culminated in a siege of Jerusalem. In 70 CE, the Romans breached the walls of Jerusalem, destroyed the second Temple, and killed an estimated one million Jews as they reasserted authority. A second revolt in 132 CE resulted in the Jews being banned from Jerusalem.

164 BCE

The Maccabees Regain Control of Jerusalem

The death of Alexander the Great led to a fight for control of Jewish lands by his successors. In 198 BCE, the Seleucids gained control. They wished to assimilate the Jews and saw their religion as an obstacle. Therefore, they banned the teaching and practice of Judaism and converted the Second Temple of Jerusalem into a temple dedicated to the Greek god Zeus. The brutal persecution of the Jews by the Seleucids triggered a revolt. The Maccabees fought successfully to regain control of Jerusalem and purify the temple. This event is celebrated today as Hanukkah.

246 BCE

Septuagint—First Known Translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek

The *Torah* (*Pentateuch*, Five Books of Moses) or Hebrew Bible, which was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic was translated to Koine Greek during this period. At this time, Koine Greek was the dominant language of Alexandria, Egypt, and the Eastern Mediterranean. There were up to 7 later translations at different points of which only fragments survive.

Judaism Timeline

<p>329 BCE</p>	<p>Alexander the Great Rules Israel</p> <p>Alexander, a Greek King, created an empire that stretched from Egypt to India. During his campaign against Persia, Alexander conquered Tyre and then Egypt via what is today Israel in the south. Alexander was respectful of the Jewish faith and thus spared Jerusalem. He reached an agreement with the Jews, that as long as they would be his loyal vassals and pay their taxes, they could remain autonomous. Israel was rather peacefully absorbed into his growing empire.</p>	<p>722 BCE</p>	<p>The Assyrians Conquer Israel</p> <p>The Assyrians conquered the northern Kingdom of Israel. They forced the 10 tribes of Israel that live there to resettle in other parts of the empire, as is Assyrian custom. This scattering of these 10 tribes was the beginning of the Jewish Diaspora, or living away from Israel, which characterizes much of Jewish history. The 10 tribes are lost to history, and they are now known as the Ten Lost Tribes. Later, the Babylonians forced the Judeans to leave the southern Kingdom of Judah.</p>
<p>516 BCE</p>	<p>Second Temple Built</p> <p>In 539 BCE, the Persian ruler Cyrus the Great made the re-establishment of the city of Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the Temple possible. When the Jewish exiles were allowed to return to Jerusalem by Cyrus the Great, construction began on the original site of Solomon's Temple. and was completed in 516 BCE.</p>	<p>920 BCE</p>	<p>Israel Split into Two Kingdoms</p> <p>King Solomon died and the northern Hebrew tribes revolted, resulting in two Kingdoms: the kingdom of Israel in the north and the kingdom of Judah in the south. They remained separate for over two hundred years.</p>
<p>587 BCE</p>	<p>First Temple Destroyed (aka Solomon's Temple)</p> <p>Babylonians invaded and destroyed the First Temple (Solomon's) when they sacked the city of Jerusalem. About 90% of the Jewish population was forced into exile.</p>	<p>970 BCE</p>	<p>First Temple Built</p> <p>Under Kings Saul, David, and Solomon, a united kingdom of Israel was formed and maintained. King Solomon of Israel built the First Temple on Mount Moriah. The temple is home to the Ark of the Covenant, a holy relic that contains the Commandments.</p>

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1280 BCE

Moses Led the Jews on an Exodus from Egypt

The Jews were enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years. Moses, a Jewish man raised as an Egyptian prince, was appointed God's prophet. Around this time he led his people out of enslavement on a journey to Canaan (Exodus). During this time, Moses presented the Israelites with the Ten Commandments that he received from God on Mt. Sinai and formed a new covenant with God. This is the foundation for the Jewish religion.

1700 BCE

First Covenant with God

Abraham circumcised himself, symbolizing the covenant between God and all his descendants. God promised to make Abraham the father of a great nation, and to give his descendants the land that later becomes Israel. This is the basis for male circumcision in the Jewish faith.

1813 BCE

Beginning of Judaism

Abraham was born. According to the *Torah* and *Old Testament*, God chose Abraham to be the father of Isaac, the founder of the Jewish people.

3761 BCE

Creation of the World / Jewish Calendar Begins

In Judaism, the stories of the creation of the world are found in the first two chapters of the *Book of Genesis* in the *Torah*. The Jewish calendar starts with the year 1 being the date ascribed to the creation of the world in the *Torah*, which is equivalent to Monday, October 7, 3761 BCE.