

# Major Religions of the World

Judaism, Islam, Hinduism



<https://www.slideserve.com/ion/religions-of-the-world-powerpoint-ppt-presentation>

**Weekly Homework Guide**

## Week Four-Judaism

### What's The Difference?

#### By Fritz Ridenour

The word "Hebrew" comes from the name "Eber," the descendants of Shem (son of Noah). The word "Semitic" comes from the name Shem.

#### Questions

1. Read Micah 5:1-3  
\*According to Micah, explain the Messiah's place of birth?
  
2. Read Isaiah 7:14  
\*According to Isaiah, explain the circumstances surrounding the Messiah's birth?  
What name was prophesied for the Messiah? (Read Matthew 1:23)
  
3. Read Zechariah 9:9  
\*According to Zechariah, how would the Messiah present himself?
  
4. Read Isaiah 53:7-9  
\*According to Isaiah, how would the Messiah die?

## So What's The Difference?

By: Fritz Ridenour

### Chapter Four: Judaism: Foundation for the Christian Faith, but Still Looking for the Messiah



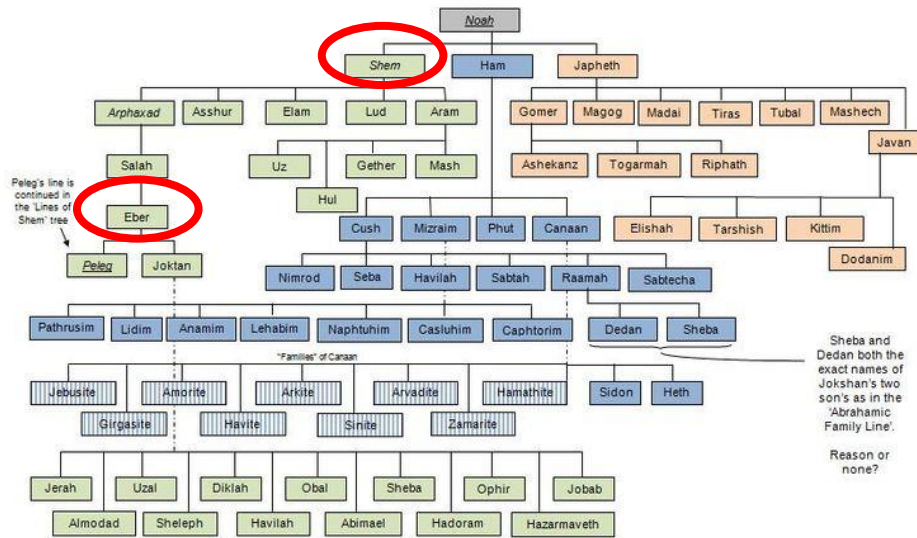
<http://www.enlightened-spirituality.org/Judaism.html>

#### **PLUMB LINE: 1 Cor. 15:3-4**

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...he was buried...he was Raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

## Introduction

- Jewish people are descended from the ancient **Hebrews**. This name comes from Eber, their traditional ancestor (mentioned in Gen. 10:21).
- One can go back farther to the name Shem, a son of Noah (mentioned in the same verse). From Shem comes the word "**Semitic**," which refers to a group of peoples that includes both Jews and Arabs.



<https://www.pinterest.com/hzprnsss/noah/>

- After the death of King Solomon about 922 B.C., the Israelites were divided into two kingdoms: the northern part called Israel, the southern part called Judah.



- In 721 B.C., the **Assyrians** swept down on the northern kingdom (Israel) and scattered its people.
- The only Hebrew people left were Judeans, who lived in the southern kingdom of Judah.
- From that time on, those who had been known as Hebrews were called Jews, an abbreviation of Judeans.
- The **Old Testament** contains the history of the Jewish nation and are the only scriptures recognized by the Jewish people.
- The **Torah**-the Law is of particular importance and is contained in the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The Romans destroyed the Temple in A.D. 70. Since then, the Jews have had no place to offer sacrifices for their sins.
- In **1948**, the state of Israel was born and became a homeland to Jewish people.



<https://momentmag.com/opinion-should-1967-be-celebrated-or-mourned/israel-map-independence-1948/>

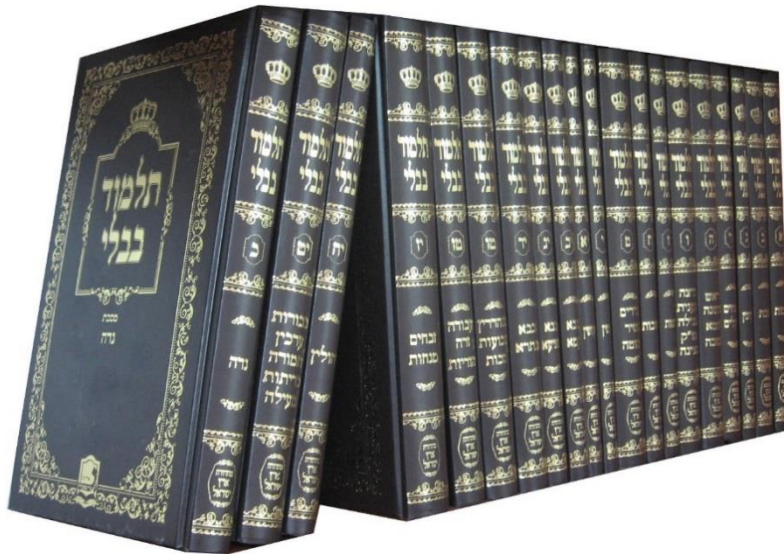
- In 1967, the Israelis captured all of Jerusalem the first time they had held it as a free people since 586 B.C.

## Jewish Customs and Laws

- There are four different forms of Judaism today: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Messianic.

### Orthodox

- Orthodox Jews try to follow the letter of the Law. They carefully study the **Torah** (Law or teachings) written down by Moses.
- The Torah denotes the body of doctrine, written and oral, that has come down through the Jewish community.
- Orthodox Jews also observe other teachings of famous rabbis through the centuries. Some of these teachings were written down around A.D. 200 in a book called the **Mishnah**.
- The Mishnah is about 1,000 pages long and consists mainly of instructions for daily living known as Halakah, or “the way to walk.”
- Around A.D. 500 another book of Jewish learning was compiled called the **Talmud**. The Talmud runs to about 36 volumes. It is based on the Mishnah, but much more material has been added, especially certain famous stories called the Haggadah.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Talmud\\_set.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Talmud_set.JPG)

- These three books-the Torah, the Mishnah, and the Talmud-rule every facet of the Orthodox Jew's life.
- Orthodox Jews are very strict in dietary restrictions and are very careful to observe the law in all ways (no work on the **Sabbath** (travel, use the phone, write, touch money or pose for pictures on the Sabbath))

## Conservative Jews

- Conservative Jews have a more **lenient** interpretation of the Torah.
- They do, however, believe that the Law is vitally important and they strive to keep alive the **Hebrew** language and the traditions of Judaism.

## Reformed Jews

- Reformed Jews teach that the **principles** of Judaism are more important than the practices.
- Most Reformed Jews do not observe the dietary laws or other laws, such as what a Jew should or should not do on the Sabbath.
- Orthodox, Conservative and reformed Jews all agree that the **Sabbath** and the holy days must be observed.
- High Holy Days of Judaism are Rosh Hashana (the Jewish New Year-Sept. or Oct.); Yom Kippur (the Jewish Day of Atonement-10 days after Rosh Hashana); and the Passover (Around Easter time)

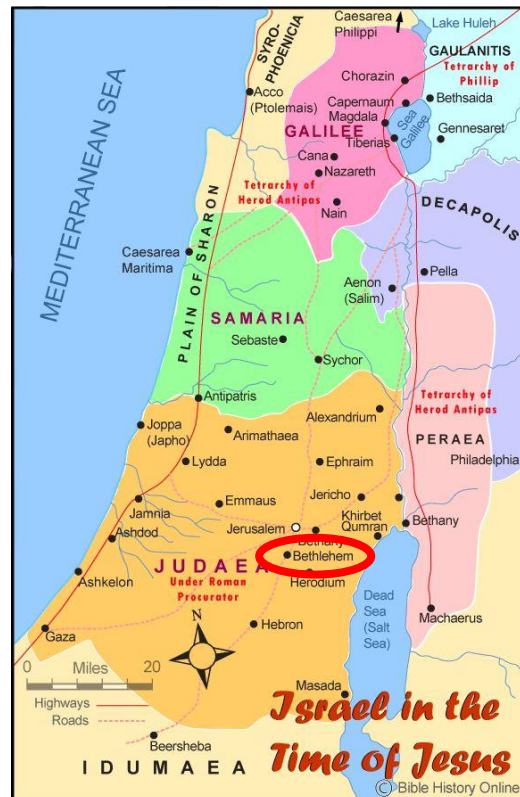
Feast of	Jewish Calendar Month	Day	Month	Ref
* Passover (Unleavened Bread)	Nisan	14-21	Mar-Apr	Ex. 12:43-13:10 Matt 26:17-20
* Pentecost (First Fruits or Weeks)	Sivan	6 (50 days after Passover)	May-June	Deut 16:9-12 Acts 2:1
Trumpets <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	Tishri	1,2	Sept-Oct	Num. 29:1-6
Day of Atonement <i>Yom Kippur</i>	Tishri	10	Sept-Oct	Lev 23:26-32 Heb 9:7
* Tabernacles (Booths or Ingathering)	Tishri	15-22	Sept-Oct	Neh 8:13-18 John 7:2
Dedication (Lights) <i>Hanukkah</i>	Chislev	25 (8 days)	Nov-Dec	John 10:22
Purim (Lots)	Adar	14,15	Feb-Mar	Esth 9:18-32

\* The three major feasts for which all males of Israel were required to travel to the Temple in Jerusalem (Ex. 23:14-19)

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## Jesus Christ: The Great Divide

- Jesus claimed to be the **Messiah**, the Son of God: John 4:7-26; 39-42; Matt. 16:16; 26:63-65; Luke 24:26; John 8:28)
- Christians include Old Testament prophecies to predict Jesus' claim as messiah:
  - Micah 5:1-3 (the Messiah would be born in **Bethlehem**; see Matt. 2:3-6)



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- Isaiah 7:14 (a virgin would bear a son and He would be called Immanuel; see Matt. 1:23)
- Zechariah 9:9 (the King would come riding on a donkey; see the Palm Sunday passage, Matt. 21:4, 5). These are just a few.
- Many Jews were looking for an **earthly** king.



## **The “Suffering Servant” of Isaiah 53**

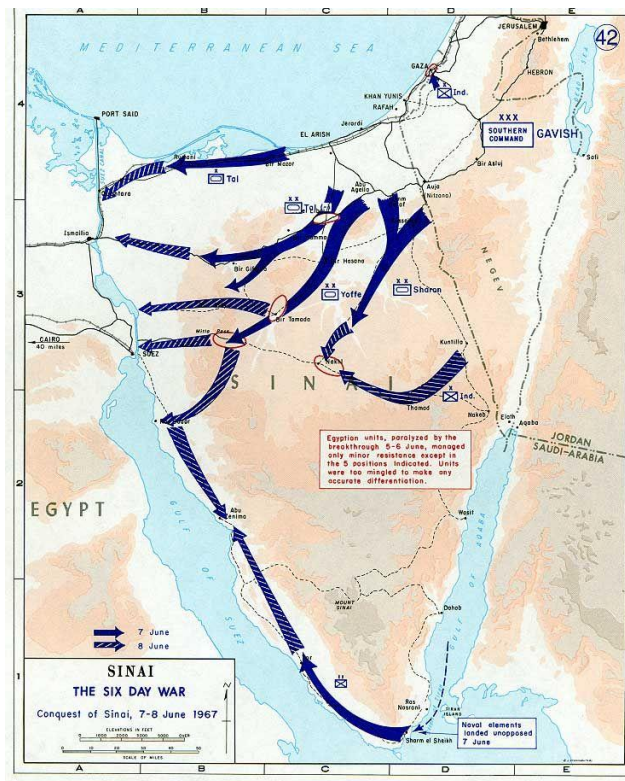
- Perhaps the greatest of these prophetic passages is in the book of Isaiah.
- Beginning with chapter 49, Isaiah describes God’s “servant,” the Messiah King, who will **suffer** to redeem His people from their sin and to turn Israel to the Lord (see vv. 5-26).
- Isaiah 53:3-The Messiah will be despised, rejected, sorrowful and full of grief-see John 1:10-12.
- Isaiah 53:7-9-The Messiah would bear punishment for mankind’s **transgressions**-see 1 Peter 2:24, 25.
- Isaiah 53:7-9 describes just how the Messiah would **die**.
  - See Matt. 27:57-60 and Luke 23:32, 33.
- Psalms 16:10 prophesied the Messiah’s triumphant **resurrection**.
  - See Acts 2:27-31-Peter quoted this prophecy in the first sermon of the Early Church.
- Many people had seen the risen Jesus; they knew that the prophecy had been fulfilled.
- Messianic Jews Break The Mold

## **Messianic Judaism**



<https://www.istockphoto.com/illustrations/messianic>

- Messianic Judaism is a movement that gained increasing momentum during the last decades of the **twentieth century**.
- Messianic Jews, from every walk of life, believe that **Yeshua** (the Hebrew name for Jesus) is the promised Jewish Messiah and Savior for Israel and the world.
- There have always been some Jewish people who came to believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. But something unanticipated and new began in 1967.
- At the end of the **Six-day War**, Jerusalem suddenly came back into Jewish hands after nearly 2,000 years under Gentile domination.



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- Tens of thousands of Jewish people suddenly accepted Yeshua as their **Messiah**.
- Citing biblical prophecy (Deut. 30:1-3; Hos. 3:4-5; Joel 2:28-29; Luke 21:24), some Messianic leaders suggest that the movement of Jewish people embracing Jesus as Messiah and forming Messianic synagogues may be an important fulfillment and indicator of end-time restoration of **Israel** as a nation.

## Summing Up Major Differences Between Jews (Excluding Messianic Jews) And Christians

### Regarding God

- The Jews believe that the Lord God is one (Deut. 6:4)
- Christians believe there is one essence of the Godhead in which reside **three** persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, coequally and coeternally God (Matt. 3:13-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).

### Regarding Jesus Christ

- Some Jews may accept Jesus as a good teacher or even a prophet, but they **reject** Him as Messiah, because He claimed to be divine and He failed to deliver Israel from Oppression.
- Christians respond that Jesus is God as well as man, and He died to redeem **all** men from sin (Mark 10:45; John 1: 13-14; 1 Peter 2:24)

### Regarding Sin

- Jews believe that man is not born good or evil; he is born free to choose between the two.
- Christians teach that everyone is born in **sin** and falls short of God's standards (Rom. 3:10, 23; 5:12).

### Regarding Salvation

- Jews believe that anyone, Jew or Gentile, may gain salvation through commitment to the one true God and through **moral** living.
- Christians counter that man is saved through **faith** in the atoning death of Christ on the cross (see Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8-9).

# Group Discussion Questions

## Week Four-Judaism

### Discussion Questions

1. Jesus states in Matthew 5:17, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill."
  - A. Judaism teaches the foundational principles of the Old Testament. It does not believe the New Testament is scriptural. How did Jesus bridge the two Testaments?
  - B. Why do you think so many Jews reject Jesus as the Messiah?
  
2. Psalm 22 prophesied Christ's death by saying: "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? (vs. 1) "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me." (vs. 14) and They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots" (vs. 18).
  - A. Jesus pointed the Jews to Psalm 22 when He cried, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" With such a proclamation, why do you feel the Jews still rejected Jesus as the Messiah?
  - B. People often pray for a miracle and yet when the miracle occurs, they quickly turn back to their old ways and forget God? Why do you think this happens?
  
3. Matthew 27:51-54 states, "And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'"
  - A. With such a display of power, why did the centurion believe Jesus was the Messiah and yet many of the Jews did not?
  - B. When the veil of the temple split, the Holy of Holies was exposed to the temple area. Was there any symbolism of this occurrence?