



Introduction to Judaism





People who practiced Judaism were called Hebrews

They were originally nomadic peoples

They kept oral records of their religion and laws. These records were later formed into the Bible

The founder of the Hebrews was Abraham. His grandson Jacob had twelve sons, and they called themselves the Twelve Tribes of Israel.



Origin of Judaism

Around the 1200s BC a leader named Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt

They led a nomadic life and eventually were brought to a place they called the “promised land.”

Jerusalem



- **Hebrews were enslaved in Egypt, and God helped them escape this slavery**
- **Set up a kingdom in Israel with Jerusalem as its capital**
- **Hebrew beliefs make up the religion of Judaism**





The Jewish relationship with God is a covenant relationship.





What I want to do

- Identify some major elements in the development of contemporary Judaism,
- including -historical background; beliefs; practices and institutions; major festivals; Twentieth Century Judaism



JUDAISM



- Jews believe that God appointed the Jews to be his chosen people in order to set an example of holiness and ethical behaviour to the world.
- It is the original of the three Abrahamic faiths, which also includes *Christianity* and *Islam*. There are 12 million Jewish people in the world, and most of them are in the USA and Israel.



AND THIS.....

- Judaism originated in the Middle East over 3500 years ago
- Judaism was founded by Moses, although Jews trace their history back to Abraham.
- Jews believe that there is only one God with whom they have a covenant.
- In exchange for all the good that God has done for the Jewish people, Jewish people keep God's laws and try to bring holiness into every aspect of their lives



AND THIS...

- Judaism has a rich history of religious text, but the central and most important religious document is the Torah.
- Spiritual leaders are called Rabbis.
- Jews worship in Synagogues.
- 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust in an attempt to wipe out Judaism



Remember

- Jews believe that the Jewish People are specially chosen by God, and it is the idea of this specially chosen race that leads some to conclude that Jews are a race, and not just a religion. This means that there are many people who identify themselves as Jewish without necessarily believing in, or observing any Jewish law.



HISTORY AND PEOPLE

- Jews regard Abraham as the first Patriarch of the Jewish people. The story of Judaism begins when God promised him that he would be the father of a great people.
- The covenant that God gave at Mount Sinai reinforced the covenant that God had given to Abraham.





- Moses was the father of the Jewish people who received the Ten Commandments from God.
- Joshua is the Bible's most famous warrior. He is remembered for destroying the walls of Jericho using only trumpets.
- Joseph was sold into slavery but managed to become advisor to the Egyptian Pharaoh because of his gift for interpreting dreams.

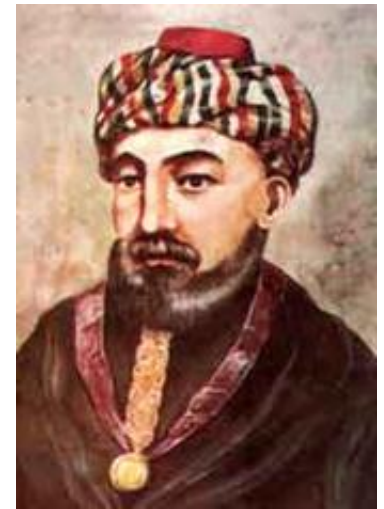


HISTORY AND PEOPLE

- David was the first king in Jerusalem whose reign was later looked back on as a golden era. He is known both as a great fighter and as the source of poems and songs, some of which are collected in the book of Psalms.
- The Holocaust. Over 11 million people died in the systematic genocide of the Jewish people carried out by the Third Reich.



Moses Maimonides is regarded by many as the greatest Jewish philosopher of the Middle Ages



Belief in one God

Judaism is a monotheistic religion, which teaches the belief in one God. Most other religions at the time were polytheistic. They believed that God was their special protector and was present everywhere

One God

VS

Many gods





God made a covenant with Abraham



**Judaism influenced two other
monotheistic early religions**



Christianity



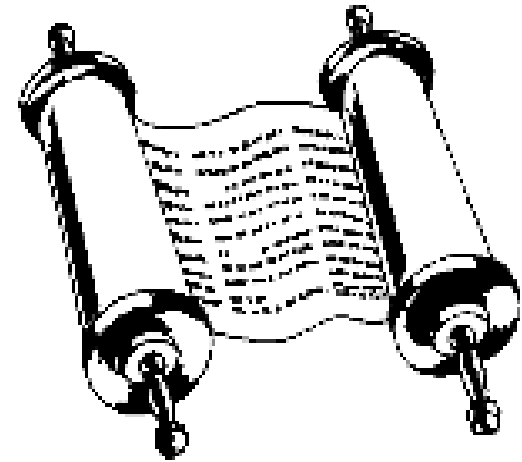
Islam

They were known as “People of the Book”



Judaism

- A personal God
- People were made in the image of God
- Sin leads to spiritual death
- *Torah*: the Book of the Law is the remedy, keeps you connected to God and clear from sin
- Waiting for the *Messiah*, the Anointed One





Putting on Phylacteries for Prayer

Wrapping phylacteries around his arm, a Hasidic boy in Brooklyn, New York, prepares for his morning prayers. Phylacteries, called tefillin in Hebrew, consist of two black leather boxes that are attached to leather ties; the boxes contain passages from Scripture written on parchment. Traditional Jews, including Hasidim, wear phylacteries for prayer from the time of bar mitzvah (age 13) on.





Bar Mitzvah Ceremony

The bar mitzvah, an important ritual in Judaism, initiates a boy into the adult religious community at the age of 13. The central feature of the ceremony is a reading from the Torah by the boy, who is accompanied here by the rabbi and his father. As an adult male, the bar mitzvah boy wears a prayer shawl and, out of respect for God, covers his head with a yarmulke, or skullcap. A similar ceremony, called a bat mitzvah, marks a Jewish girl's entrance into the adult community.



Food

Kosher – In determining whether a recipe you want to post is kosher, bear in mind the basic concepts of kosher food: no mixing of dairy and meat; no pork or pork products; no shell fish. This also applies to food products containing such ingredients. For example, a food coloring made from a shell fish would be considered unkosher and would taint the food in which it might be used. Similarly, using, e.g., an animal fat together with dairy ingredients renders the product unkosher and taints even the implements used in making it.

If a recipe is not in keeping with these basic requirements, consider whether substitutions can be made to adjust it (e.g., substituting margarine for butter in a meat recipe). If you are unsure of how to make such substitutions, post the recipe and ask for suggestions as how to do so.



Women in Judaism

Although *orthodox* Judaism sets limits on the religious and social roles of women in the Jewish community, *reform* Judaism allows women to participate on equal terms in synagogues and, in many instances, to hold high office within the community.

For example, in September 1972 Sally J. Preisand became the first female rabbi in the history of Judaism. Rabbi Pauline Bebe, pictured here, holds an open Torah.





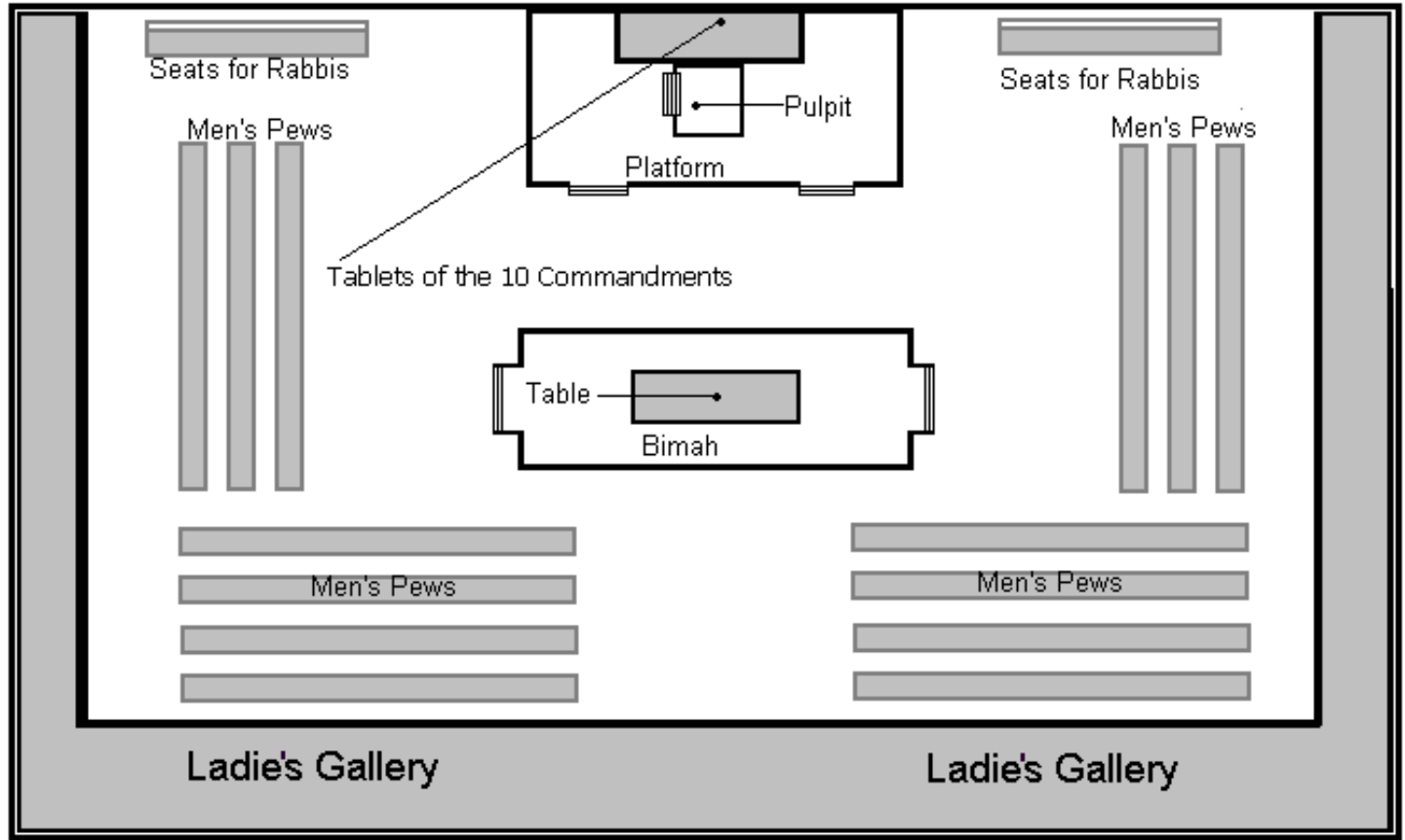
Sukkot, or the Festival of Tabernacles, signals the end of the harvest period in Palestine, as described in the Old Testament. The third pilgrimage festival in the Jewish calendar, it is celebrated for either eight or nine days beginning on the 15th day of Tishri, a Jewish month that occurs in the Autumn. Families observe this happy holiday by building a sukkah, which is a temporary tabernacle or hut, gathering together four kinds of tree branches, and rejoicing.

Significant Jewish “Holy” Days

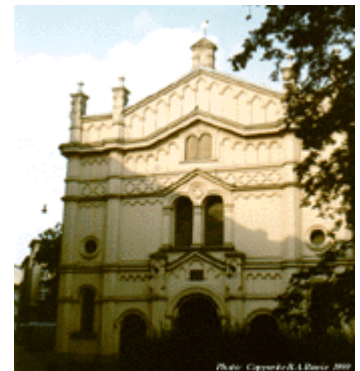
Shabbat – The Sabbath (or Shabbat, as it is called in Hebrew) is one of the best known and least understood of all Jewish observances. It is primarily a day of rest and spiritual enrichment. Shabbat is the most important ritual observance in Judaism. It is the only ritual observance instituted in the Ten Commandments. It is also the most important special day, even more important than Yom Kippur. The word "Shabbat" means to cease, to end, or to rest. People who do not observe Shabbat think of it as a day filled with stifling restrictions, or simply as a day of prayer; yet, to those who observe Shabbat, it is a precious gift from God, a day of great joy eagerly awaited throughout the week, a time when we can set aside all of our weekday concerns and devote ourselves to spiritual pursuits. The following are forbidden on the Sabbath:

Sowing, plowing, reaping, binding sheaves, threshing, winnowing, selecting, grinding, sifting, kneading, baking, shearing wool, washing wool, beating wool, dyeing wool, spinning, weaving, making two loops, weaving two threads, separating two threads, tying, untying, sewing two stitches, tearing, trapping, slaughtering, flaying, salting meat, curing hide, scraping hide, cutting hide up, writing two letters, erasing two letters, building, tearing a building down, extinguishing a fire, kindling a fire, hitting with a hammer, taking an object from the private domain to the public, or transporting an object in the public domain. Also prohibited are travel, the use of electricity, buying and selling of goods or services, and other weekday tasks that would interfere with the spirit of Shabbat.





PLAN OF A SYNAGOGUE



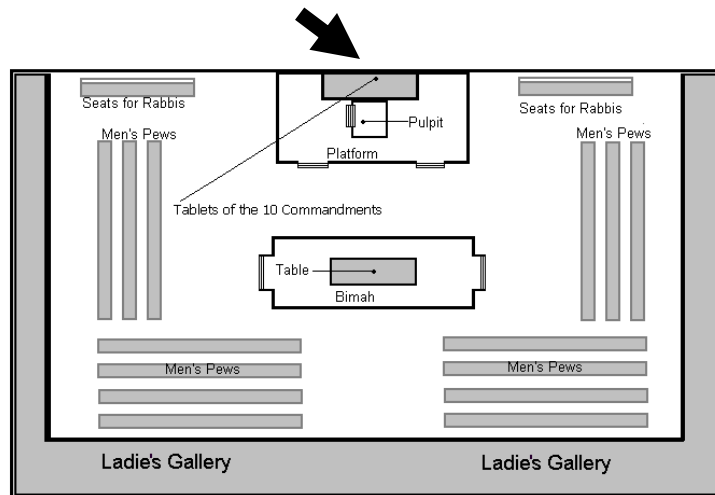
What is a Synagogue

- Synagogues originally began as an assembly place, a sort of community centre for Jews to gather. For over 2000 years it has provided a place of warmth and security for Jewish nourishment and education. The word "synagogue" comes from a greek word meaning "meeting place". Today the word Shul is commonly used. The synagogue is a place of prayer, worship , a school for studying Jewish teachings, and a meeting place.



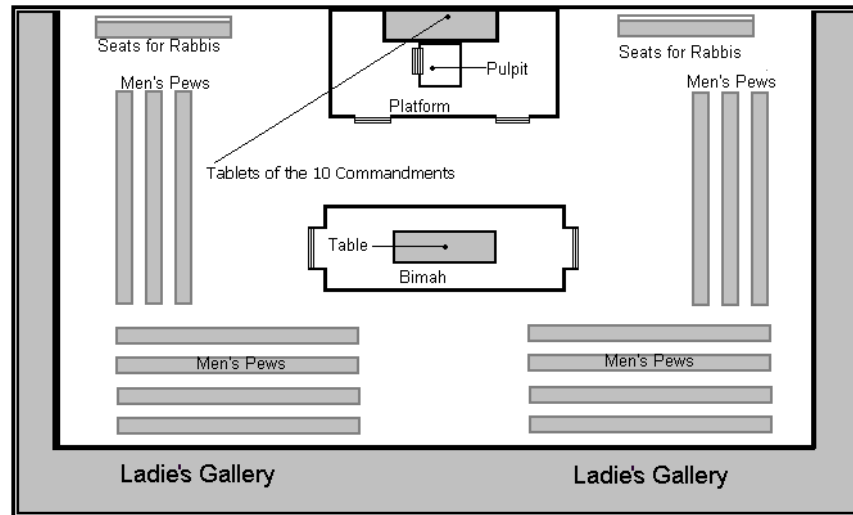
What is a Synagogue

- When they pray Jews face towards Jerusalem. In the wall which faces towards Jerusalem there is the Ark of the Covenant, the Aron Kodesh, which contains the Torah, and the 10 Commandments.
- Originally the Ark was a wooden chest which the Jews used to carry the teachings Moses received from God on Sinai.
- In front of the Ark is a curtain, the Parochet, usually beautifully embroidered. One or two menorah, seven branched candle sticks, are found close to the Ark.



What is a Synagogue

- Jewish Rabbis and elders sit along the wall which houses the Ark. Traditionally Men sit in the main pews while women usually occupy a raised gallery although in some liberal synagogues women sit in the main areas with the men.
- In the centre of the synagogue is the Bimah, a raised platform from which the leading Rabbi, conducts the service. Scrolls are read from here and on Rosh Hashanah the ram's horn is blown from here.



PLAN OF A SYNAGOGUE



The Daily Life of a Jew

Mizvot: the 613 “do’s and don’ts” regarding the daily life of a Jew – none of the Mizvot deal with beliefs, each of them deal specifically with a particular action.

“Some look at the teachings of the Mizvot and deduce that Jews are trying to earn their way into Heaven by observing rules. This is a gross mischaracterization of the Jewish religion. It is important to remember that unlike other religions, Judaism isn’t focused on the question of how to get into Heaven. Judaism rather, is focused on our life on earth and how to best live that life. Non-Jews frequently ask me, ‘do you think that you will go to Hell if you don’t do such-and-such?’ – to which I always respond that the question of where I’m going after death simply doesn’t enter into the equation when I think about observing the Mizvot. We perform the Mizvot because it is our privilege and our sacred obligation to do so...we perform them out of a sense of love and duty to our Creator, not out of a desire to get something in return.”

Rabbi Izakson





Ark of the Covenant

The Ark of the Covenant (seen here being carried behind a cloud of smoke), mentioned in the Bible throughout the Old Testament, symbolized the agreement of faith made between God and the Israelites at Mount Sinai. The Ark supposedly contained the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses, Aaron's rod, and a pot of manna.

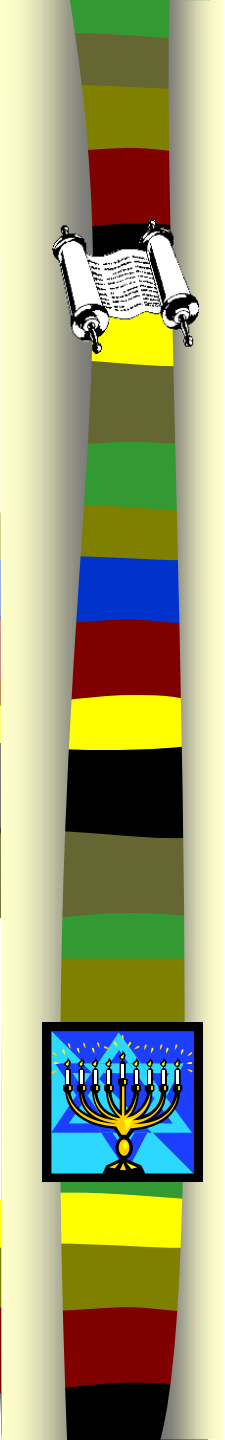
The Ark represented God's presence to the Israelites, who carried it with them while wandering through the desert and into battle. The Ark had disappeared by the time of the fall of Jerusalem in 586 bc, though it is mentioned in legends dating from after its disappearance.

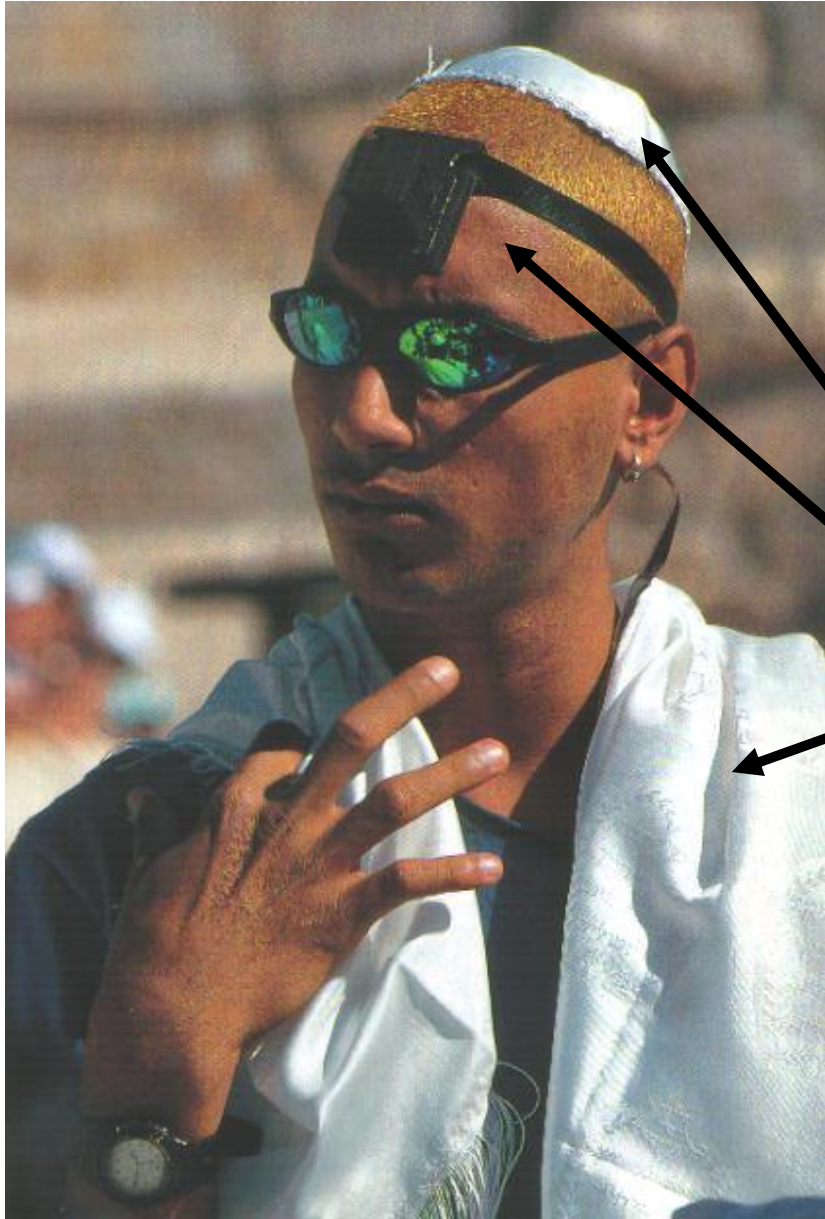


The seven branched candelabra (*menorah*) was created in the wilderness and later transferred to Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem. By the time the temple was destroyed in 70 C.E., the menorah had been a Jewish symbol for a thousand years.

Tefillin are small, square boxes made of parchment or leather; two are attached to a long strap, called a *Retzuah*. One box, called the *Shel Rosh* (head) is worn above the forehead, and the other *Shel Yad* (hand) is worn on the left forearm. Both contain strips of parchment on which are inscribed passages from the Bible.

The six-pointed star has been identified as a decoration at the side of the *menorah* which, at the time, was regarded as the "Shield of David." The illustration of this star in a 1564 manuscript is described as a Magen David. The use of the star became more widespread, and it replaced the menorah as a popular symbol of Judaism.





Example of a
young Jewish
Man wearing
the Yamulka,
Teffelin & a
Prayer Shawl





Kingdom of Israel

The kingdom of Israel reached the height of its existence and included the most territory under the reign of King David (1000–961 bc). Its borders stretched far beyond present-day Israeli borders and included parts of what is now Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.



Kingdoms of Judah and Israel

Despite his desire to unify and improve the vast empire of his father, King David, King Solomon's oppressive rule caused much dissension among the Israelites and eventually led to the division of the kingdom following his death. The northern part of his realm became the kingdom of Israel, while the southern became the kingdom of Judah.



Judah Under the Hasmonaeans

More than 800 years after the initial split between the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, the Hasmonaeans created a new independent nation where they could practice a pure form of Judaism, free from foreign influence. Also called the kingdom of Judah, this nation included many of the earlier boundaries of the kingdom of Israel (900? BCE).



The Second Temple was constructed in Jerusalem after the Jews returned from exile in Babylonia in the 6th century BCE. The First Temple, built by King Solomon, had been destroyed by the Babylonians, and the Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. All that remains of the Second Temple today is a part of the western wall that enclosed the Temple area, but tourists can view this reconstruction of the Temple complex in Jerusalem. The wall is a traditional site of Jewish pilgrimage, lamentation, and prayer.

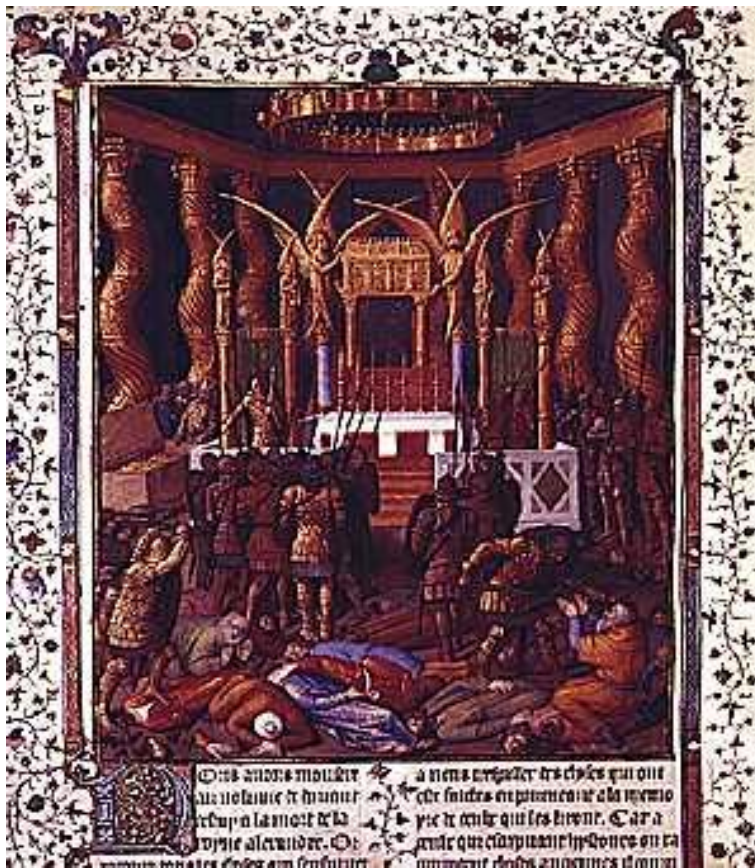


Model of the 2nd Temple



Romans Destroy Jewish Temple

The Jews revolted against Rome from the years 66 to 70. This medieval illustrated manuscript portrays the Roman statesman and general Pompey entering a Jewish temple to destroy it, as described by the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus in his 20-volume *Jewish Antiquities*. The carved wall below shows the looting of the Temple at the same event.



Encarta Encyclopedia, SuperStock/ET Archive, London

Persecution of Jews

In this German woodcut from about 1495, a man carries logs to a fire in which Jews are being burned alive. Persecution of Jews during the Middle Ages began with the Crusades in 1096 and intensified during outbreaks of plague. Superstitious people blamed the plague on the Jews, whom they claimed had poisoned the water. In Spain during the late 1400s, Jews who had converted to Christianity could be sentenced to burning if they later recanted or were suspected of practicing Judaism.





Jewish Refugees Leave Germany

Nazi soldiers jeer as this Jewish family leaves Memel, Germany, en route to Lithuania on April 6, 1939.





In the years after World War II (1939-1945) the United Nations (UN) developed a plan to partition Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. The Arabs rejected the plan, but the Jews accepted it, and the independent nation of Israel was created in 1948. Five Arab nations—Egypt, Transjordan (now Jordan), Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq—immediately attacked Israel. In the Arab-Israeli War of 1948-1949 and subsequent wars with its Arab neighbors Israel acquired territory beyond its 1948 boundaries. As a result of the 'Six day War' of 1967 Israel took and later annexed the Syrian territory of the Golan Heights, a claim not recognized by most nations. Israel also occupied the West Bank (formerly of Jordan) and the Gaza Strip (formerly of Egypt), areas now partially under Palestinian Arab administration. Even Jerusalem, the city Israel claims as its capital, remains an area of dispute.

Modern Israel

