

**Aim:** What are the major beliefs of Judaism? How does Judaism impact the lives of Jewish people?

**HW:** p. 49.

**What are the major beliefs of Judaism? How does Judaism impact the lives of Jewish people?**

Objective:

- **Describe** the major beliefs of Judaism.
- **Explain** how Judaism impacts the lives of Jewish people.

**Introduction**

→ **Directions:** Examine the images below, then fill out the chart with what you see, think, and wonder.



[ReadingOfTheTorah.jpg](#) by Roylindman is published under the [CC BY-SA 3.0 Unported](#) license



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- see*
- Torah
  - 2 people
  - Star of David
  - Yamulkes
  - Books
  - Papers

**Think**  
Based on your observations, what do you *think* the objects in the images above have in common?

They all connect to Judaism.

**Wonder**  
Write two questions you have about the picture above.

- How long does it take to learn Hebrew?
- What are the books?
- What are they writing?
- Who are the two people?

→ **Directions:** As you read about the following beliefs of Judaism, answer the questions that accompany each section and fill out [this graphic organizer](#).

**1. Monotheism**

Most civilizations in the Middle East at the time of the Ancient Israel practiced **polytheistic** religions. **Judaism** was the first **monotheistic** religion that continued to exist and impact world history.

Word	Polytheism			Monotheism		
Prefix and Root	Poly	+	theism	Mono	+	theism
Meaning	“many”		“having to do with god”	“one”		“having to do with god”
Examples	Animism is a belief system in which people worship many different natural spirits. For example, some Animistic religions might worship a god of the sun, a volcano, or of the forest.			Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all worship the same singular god who the Jewish people call “Yahweh,” Christians call “God,” and Muslims refer to as “Allah.”		

**2. The Covenant**

A **covenant** is an **agreement**. Jewish people believe that God made covenants with several figures mentioned in the Torah. The covenants below are between God and the father of Judaism, Abraham.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country [Egypt], and from thy kindred [relatives], and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew [show] thee:  
 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:  
 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.[...]  
 In the same day the LORD made a **covenant** with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates[...]  
 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

Source: Genesis 12:1- 3; Genesis 15:18- 21; Genesis 17:9- 12; King James Version of the Holy Bible. Retrieved July 28, 2015, from <http://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/kiv/gen.htm>

**1. Based on this section of the Torah, God promised Abraham...**

- Leave Egypt → I'll protect your people.  
 - You will have a great nation.  
 - You + your family will be blessed.  
 - Land from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

3. The Ten Commandments

Most belief systems have **ethical/moral codes of conduct** that describe how one should live their life based on the beliefs of that religion. For Judaism, the **Ten Commandments**, that appear in the Torah, are the clearest code of conduct. According to the Torah, God inscribed the commandments on two stone tablets and gave them to Moses to share with the rest of the Israelites.

The Ten Commandments

And God spoke all these words, saying,  
 (1) I am the LORD thy God[...]  
 (2) Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven [engraved] image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them[...]  
 (3) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain[...]  
 (4) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy[....] in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates[....]  
 (5) Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.  
 (6) Thou shalt not kill.  
 (7) Thou shalt not commit adultery [cheat on one's husband or wife].  
 (8) Thou shalt not steal.  
 (9) Thou shalt not bear false witness [lie] against thy neighbour.  
 (10) Thou shalt not covet [want] thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass [donkey], nor any thing that is thy neighbour's[....]

Source: Exodus 20: 1-21, King James Version of the Holy Bible. Retrieved July 29, 2014, from <http://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/kjv/exo020.htm>

2. Identify one piece of evidence from the Ten Commandments that suggests that Judaism is a monotheistic religion.

Commandment #2 + 1

3. Based on the Ten Commandments, describe a person who lives their life according to God's laws.

- Can't Kill - Don't misuse the Lord's name  
 - Don't steal - Don't lie!  
 - Loyal to spouse  
 - Respect your parents  
 - pray + go to temple.

#### 4. Major Figures of Judaism

##### Abraham



Depiction of Abraham circa 1180 by Herrad von Landsberg

[Image](#) courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain

- **Father of Judaism**
- Life story is told in the book of **Genesis** in the Hebrew Bible
- God made a **covenant** with Abraham promising to bless him with descendants “like the sands of the sea” and a nation for him and the Israelites

##### Moses



*Moses with the Tablets of the Law.* Rembrandt, 1695.

[Image](#) courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain

- Life story told in the **Torah**
- Freed the Israelite slaves from **Egypt**
- God gave Moses the **Ten Commandments**
- Many Jewish people believe **he wrote the Torah**

## Impact: How did Judaism impact the lives of Ancient Israelites?

### That Babylonian Exile (Captivity)



→ Directions: Watch this History Channel video clip, [Exile of the Jews](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tK2Kw0Qagww) and read the excerpt below, then answer the questions that follow.



Starting around 597 BCE, the **Babylonian Empire**, centered in the city of Babylon in the Fertile Crescent, conquered the Kingdom of **Judah**. The upper class Jewish people, Israelites who lived in Judah, were ordered by the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar II, to leave Jerusalem and live in captivity in Babylon.

The period of time from **597 to 539 BCE**, which ended when the Persian king Cyrus the Great took over Babylon and allowed the Jews to return to Judah, is known as the **Babylonian Exile or Captivity**.

This period had a great effect on the Jewish people. They wondered how such a terrible thing could happen to god's "chosen people." In addition, their sacred temple where they worshiped their god was destroyed.

As a result, some of the Jewish people in Babylon became more religious. They commemorated the fall of Jerusalem with days of prayer and celebrated the Sabbath (day of rest set aside for religious reasons). The profession of the **scribes**, people who copied religious documents, grew in importance. Historical writings and religious teachers were compiled and revised by the scribes to create the Torah. The writers viewed the recent events as punishment for their sins, especially the sin of worshipping gods other than Yahweh. At the same time, the scribes and others in exile hoped that the Jewish faith would bring the Israelites together and that they would be able to rebuild the Temple once the exile was over.

The Babylonian exile represents both one of Judaism's darkest hours and also the beginning of its history as an enduring universal religion that gave birth to the later monotheistic traditions of Christianity and Islam.

Based on the video and reading above identify two pieces of evidence that show that Judaism unified the Jewish people.

1. The Torah  
- Laws
2. Protective of their identity



FA

**SQ 24:** What are the major beliefs of Judaism? How does Judaism impact the lives of Jewish people?

→ **Directions:** Based on what you have learned, complete the task below.



Part I

**Describe** the major beliefs of Judaism. **Explain** how Judaism impacts the lives of Jewish people.

**Contextualize**