

Judaism

A Kingdom of Priests
and a Holy Nation



Covenant

Not the language of “biblical Israel” (10th-6th c. BCE; First Temple)
7th c. BCE – Deuteronomy – Josiah (2 Kings 22-23)

Moses/Sinai – Abraham & Sarah – Noah – Levitical priests – David –
“new” covenant of the exilic prophets – Ezra – *Standing Again at Sinai*

Redemption

Transformation

Sign

The *Shma* – Deut. 6:4 – Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God is the one LORD.
Torah – all that God reveals

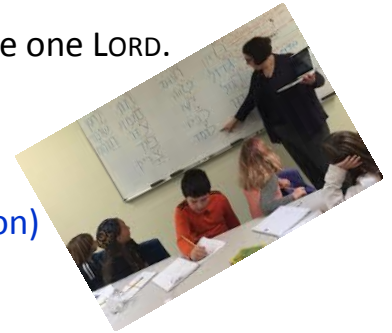


Bible

Midrash (commentary)

613 Commandments

Talmud (application)



Discuss the *midrash* on the separate handout:

David reduced the 613 to 11.... What is the key point?

“The world is supported by three things: Torah, worship, and good deeds.”
--*Pirke Avot* 1:2

Worship

Three times daily (morning, afternoon, evening)
Segments:

Preparatory blessings and prayers

The *Shma* (“Hear, O Israel...”)

The *Amida* (fixed, 19-part prayer, but called “The 18”)

recited silently and repeated out loud

3 praise; 13 petition; 3 thanksgiving

(13 petitions replaced by 1 on Shabbat)

Torah Reading (on Mondays Thursdays, and Shabbat)

Concluding Prayers

Kaddish – “Mourner’s prayer,” lavish praise of God



Covenant and Land



Genesis 15:18 – “To your descendants I give this land....”

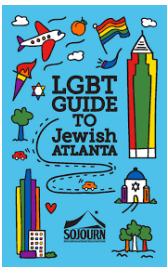
Genesis 17:8 – “And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien....”

Deuteronomy 10:11 – “Get up [, Moses], go on...at the head of the people, that they may go in and occupy the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them.”

Isaiah 44:24-26 – I am the LORD, who made all things.... who confirms the predictions of his messengers; who says of Jerusalem, “It shall be inhabited,” and of the cities of Judah, “They shall be rebuilt, and I will raise up their ruins....”

Zionism – any movement of Jewish restoration, in many forms

Covenant and Modernity – the modern movements of Judaism



1840s German – Reform Judaism – ethical monotheism and individualism

Orthodox – response to Reform – Torah observance and rabbinic authority

Conservative – amendment of Reform – communal authority

“as much tradition as possible; as much change as necessary”

Reconstructionist – universalist impulses – distinctive, but not unique

Judaism in America

1654 – Refugee Jews from Brazil

1840s – “liberal” Jewish immigration (Germany and W. Europe)

1880s – Eastern European wave (Orthodox/Hasidic)

1885 – Jewish Theological Seminary, NYC (Conservative)

1934 – Reconstructionist Judaism (M. Kaplan, *Judaism as a Civilization*)

1960s – Black-Jewish alliances

1972 – first American woman rabbi ordained (Sally Priesand, Reform)



Questions for Rabbi Linda Bertenthal (Temple Emanuel, Davenport):

Community visit: Friday, 2 August, 6:00 pm – Temple Emanuel

1115 Mississippi Ave, Davenport

Number: 1 – “Hear O Israel, the LORD our God is the one LORD.” The great confessional text of *Devarim* 6:4 rings at the center of Jewish worship, life, and death. Devotion to the active calling to honor and proclaim the oneness of God gives powerful shape to any Jewish life.

Color: Blue – in the Jewish prayer shawl and surrounding the biblical land in sea, sky, and river.