



the **Talmud**, which is studied by Jews to this day. The Talmud, taught by rabbis and observed by Jews in many widely scattered lands, ultimately served two purposes. It kept **Judaism** a unified religion, and it maintained the Jews as separate, close-knit communities in cities and countries where they represented only a small minority of the population.

By the time the Talmud was completed, in about 500 CE, the **Roman Empire** had fallen apart. But **Judaism** had survived and continued in exile throughout the world.

**Answer the following questions using the article.**

What does the word diaspora mean?

What is NOT something that is retained if a diaspora has occurred?

- A) The homeland of the people
- B) History
- C) Culture
- D) Religious Beliefs

Which event led to the Jewish Diaspora?

- A) The birth of Jesus
- B) The destroying of the Torah
- C) The Jews Exile in Babylon
- D) The Second Temple being destroyed by the Romans

What is a rabbi?

What is a synagogue?

What were the two purposes The Talmud served during the Jewish Diaspora?

Which of the following has survived to this day?

- A) The Roman Empire
- B) Moses and Abraham
- C) Judaism
- D) The Babylonian Empire

**Watch, "The Jewish Diaspora"**

Take notes over the following topics as you watch the video.

First Diaspora (Assyria)	Second Diaspora (Babylon)	Third Diaspora (Rome)	Jews Today

How has the Jewish diaspora influenced the Jewish community today?

## A Culture of Law and Learning

### How did the Torah impact the Jewish people

**Judaism** is based on the belief in a single God, who set down moral laws for ancient Israelites to follow. This system of beliefs, called ethical **monotheism**, set them apart from the other nations of the region. The idea of worshipping a single, all-powerful God, instead of many gods who each had a specific function, was new and unique.

According to the Torah, God gave the Jewish people their laws through **Moses** at Mount Sinai. These laws formed the basis of Judaism from ancient times until today. Some laws describe rituals or practices for all Jewish people, including daily prayers, **Sabbath** observances, and dietary rules. The Torah also describes ethical laws, which require Jewish people to give to charity, to be kind to strangers, and to avoid gossip. Hundreds of rules, moral codes, and restrictions are listed in the Torah’s Book of Leviticus. The heart of Jewish law is the **Ten Commandments**. The **Ten Commandments** remind Israelites that God ended their enslavement in **Egypt** and outline the essential laws for how Jewish people should worship God and treat others.

The Ten Commandments describe, clearly and simply, a powerful moral code for human behavior. They instruct followers of Judaism to believe and honor one God, to value all life, and to honor their parents and elders. They also instruct people to live justly and to learn to control their desires.

The rituals and ethical requirements of the ancient Israelites became the foundation of Judaism, a religion that has survived and flourished for over 3,000 years. Its followers have spread all over the world and continue to read and study the Torah. However, the Israelites did not just establish a religion. The later books of the **Hebrew Bible** describe the kingdoms established by the Israelites and their descendants.

#### Answer the following questions using the article.

Which term describes a key element of Judaism?

- A) Polytheism
- B) Gods and Goddesses
- C) Exiled by Babylonians
- D) Monotheism

Which of the following isn’t a law of Judaism?

- A) Give to charity
- B) Honor one God
- C) Value all life
- D) Build tombs for pharaohs

What is the importance of the Ten Commandments?


How long has Judaism flourished?

- A) 2019 years
- B) 100 years
- C) 3,000 years
- D) 4,000 years

#### Watch, “The Ten Commandments” and view the image, “Ten Commandments”

Summarize the Israelites journey from slavery in Egypt to receiving the Ten Commandments.


Copy the Ten Commandments into the chart below

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

### Three Faiths

#### How did Judaism impact other civilizations and religions?

**Judaism** provided an important foundation for two other great world religions that were founded after Judaism: **Christianity** and **Islam**. Both adopted **Abraham**'s belief in a single God. Together, these are sometimes called the Abrahamic faiths because they all believe in a single God who spoke to Abraham thousands of years ago. These three monotheistic faiths – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam – would become powerful driving forces in human history. Christianity and Islam eventually became the two most popular religions in the world. Believers from both faiths ruled powerful empires and often struggled for control of land in Europe, Southwest Asia, and North Africa. Jewish people were often minorities in these empires and sometimes faced persecution by powerful rulers. All three faiths would inspire important scholarship and timeless works of art.

Many important traditions in Christianity, Islam, and general Western civilization have their roots in Judaism. Jewish holy texts emphasized a holy day of rest and the equality of all people before the law. They promoted loving your neighbor and providing charity.

Christianity grew directly out of Judaism. In fact, **Jesus**, the founder of Christianity, lived and died an observant Jew. Christians view Jesus as the founder of Christianity and look at the different way he sought to understand the teachings of God. Christianity adopted much of the Torah and other Jewish holy books into its own Bible, calling it the Old Testament. The teachings of Jesus were added as the New Testament.

Islam developed less directly from Judaism. **Muslims**, members of the Islamic faith, adapted many of the Torah's stories from a different perspective. According to some Muslim traditions, most likely derived from the Bible, some Arab groups are descended from Abraham's son Ishmael. These groups include the ancestors of Muhammad, the founder of Islam.

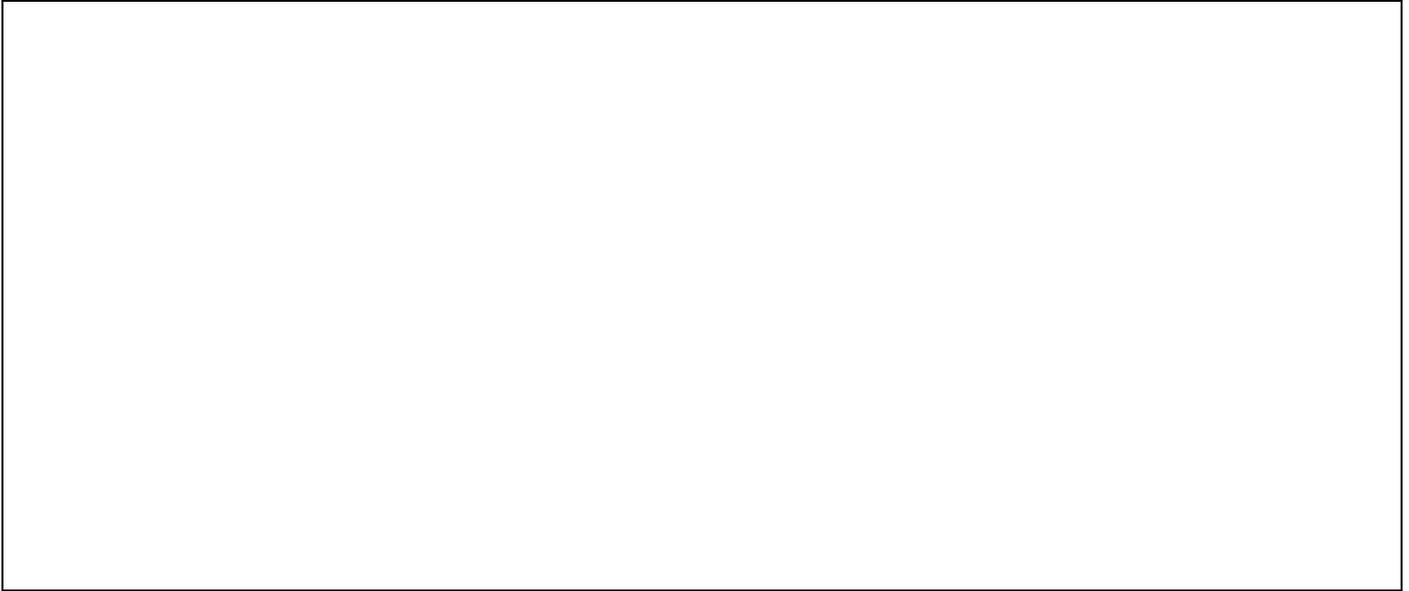
The **Ten Commandments** from the Jewish Torah play a strong, central role in Christianity and Islam. Christianity kept the **Ten Commandments**, with some changes, as part of the Old Testament. Islam has similar ideas that correspond to most of the Ten Commandments, and has verses in its holy book, the Quran, that correspond with many of them. The holy texts from these three religions even share certain characters. The angel, Gabriel, appears in holy texts for each religion as a messenger from God.

The Torah and **Hebrew Bible** are filled with intriguing stories, larger-than-life characters, and poetry that expresses universal ideas and values in beautifully crafted language. Renaissance artists such as Michelangelo used figures from the Hebrew Bible as inspiration. The Jewish philosopher Maimonides (1135–1204), known for his contributions to the organization of Jewish law, also wrote about the problems of faith and free will. He was respected by Muslim and Christian thinkers, as well as by Jewish scholars, as one of the greatest philosophers of the Middle Ages.

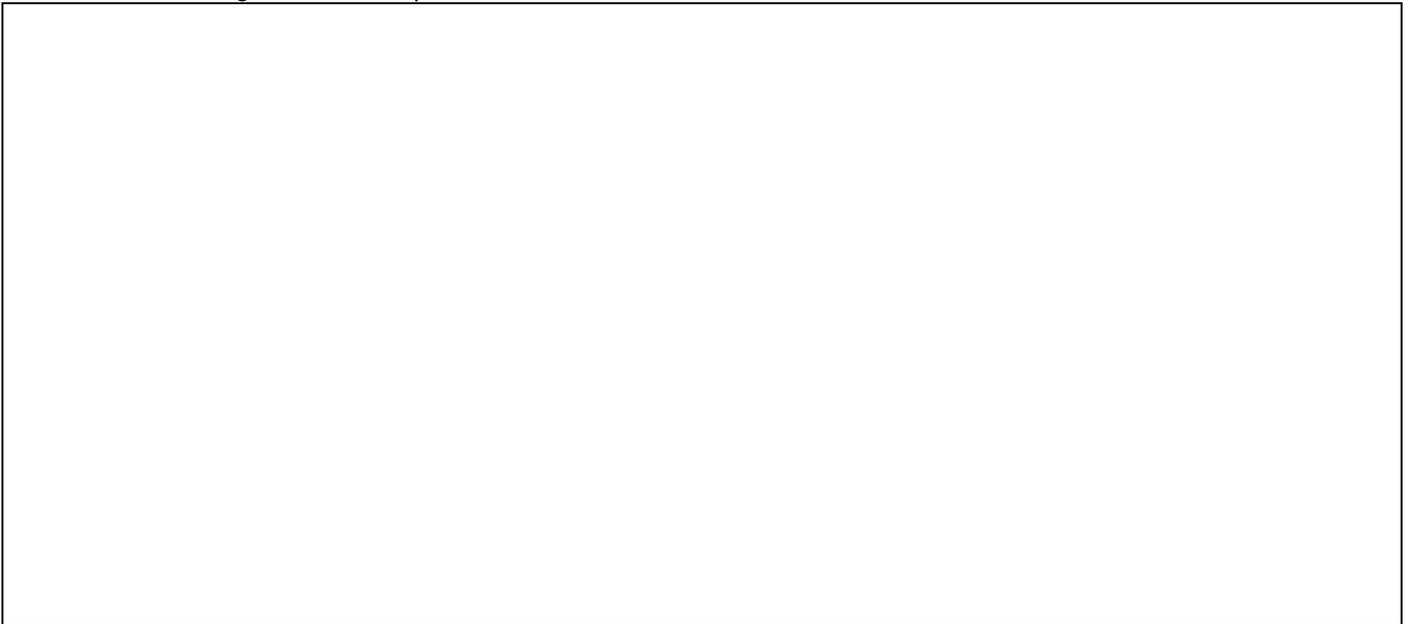
**Israel** never became a large empire, but the beliefs and practices of the ancient Hebrews and Israelites who founded Judaism had an enormous impact on the world.

**Answer the following questions using the article.**

Create a Venn diagram that compares and contrasts Judaism with Christianity.



Create a Venn diagram that compares and contrast Islam with Judaism



**Watch, "Judaism"**

Explain the relevance of the following terms

Judaism -
Tanakh -
Torah -
Monotheism -
Ten Commandments

