

## CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Historical Overview
  - A. The uniqueness of the contribution of the Jews
  - B. The influence of Judaism on Christianity and Islam
- II. Judaism
  - A. The people and their religion, 2000–1500 B.C.
    1. Nomadic origins
    2. Abraham
      - a) First introduction to Canaan
      - b) The covenant
      - c) The rite of circumcision
      - d) Belief in an ethical deity with ethical principles for the faithful
  - B. Egypt, exodus, and Moses, 1500–1000 B.C.
    1. The Egyptian period
    2. Moses
      - a) The exodus
      - b) Wandering on the Sinai peninsula
      - c) The Mosaic code
        - (1) Divinely given
        - (2) No distinction between religious and secular offenses
        - (3) The Ten Commandments
        - (4) The ideal: ethical monotheism
        - (5) God or Yahweh
        - (6) Other religious practices
      - d) The conquest of Canaan
    3. The Kingdom of Israel, 1000–926 B.C.
      - a) The reign of Saul
      - b) The reign of David
        - (1) Centralized government
        - (2) Economic changes
      - c) The reign of Solomon
        - (1) Peace with neighbors
        - (2) Expanded trade
        - (3) Building program in Jerusalem
        - (4) Literature and the arts
    4. The split of Israel into two kingdoms, 926–722 B.C.
      - a) The northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah
      - b) The rise of prophets
        - (1) Full-fledged monotheism

- (2) The demand for social justice
  - 5. The Babylonian Captivity and the postexilic period, 722–540 B.C.
    - a) The destruction of Israel by Assyria
    - b) The conquest of Judah by Babylonia
    - c) The Persian conquest
      - (1) Return to Jerusalem
      - (2) The Second Temple
      - (3) The beginning of the Diaspora
    - d) The renewed faith
      - (1) Zoroastrian influences
      - (2) Belief in the end of the world
      - (3) Belief in the apocalypse
      - (4) The notion of a Messiah
  - 6. The Hellenistic and Roman periods, 323 B.C.–A.D. 284
    - a) The Hellenistic threat to the Jewish way of life
    - b) The Maccabean Jewish state
    - c) The Roman conquest
      - (1) Various political strategies for governing
      - (2) The Third Temple
      - (3) The First Jewish War
      - (4) Destruction of the Temple
      - (5) The second Diaspora
      - (6) Rabbinic Judaism
- C. Societal and Family Relationships
  - 1. Women's status in earlier times
  - 2. Women's changed status after the founding of the kingdom
- D. The Bible
  - 1. Evolution of the scriptures
  - 2. The Septuagint
  - 3. The parts of the Hebrew Bible
    - a) The Law
      - (1) Its books and themes
      - (2) Canonization
    - b) The Prophets
      - (1) Its themes
      - (2) Canonization
    - c) The Writings
      - (1) Its themes
      - (2) Canonization
  - 4. Jewish literature outside the canon: the Apocrypha
  - 5. The Dead Sea Scrolls
  - 6. Key ideas of biblical Judaism

- E. Early Jewish art and architecture
  - 1. The effect of the prohibition of graven images
  - 2. The Ark of the Covenant and other sacred objects
  - 3. Solomon's Temple
  - 4. The Second Temple
  - 5. Hellenistic influences
    - a) The fortress-palace of John Hyrcanus
    - b) The tombs in the Kidron valley
  - 6. Roman influences
    - a) Herod's fortress-palace at Masada
    - b) The Third Temple
- III. Christianity, 4 B.C.–A.D. 284
  - A. Historical overview
  - B. The life of Jesus Christ and the New Testament
    - 1. Sources for the life of Jesus
      - a) Biographical summary
      - b) The Gospels
        - (1) The synoptic Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke
        - (2) The Gospel of John
        - (3) The reasons for the various versions
      - c) The Acts of the Apostles
        - (1) Relation to Luke's Gospel
        - (2) Its purpose
      - d) The seven epistles of Paul
        - (1) Record of missionary activities
        - (2) Knowledge of Greek philosophy
        - (3) The first Christian theology
        - (4) Interpretation of the life of Jesus
        - (5) Teaching on the resurrection
      - e) The other seven epistles
      - f) The Book of Revelation
        - (1) Its relation to Jewish apocalyptic literature
        - (2) Its controversial nature
    - 2. The establishment of the Christian canon
  - C. Christians and Jews
    - 1. Christian borrowings from Judaism
    - 2. Christian borrowings of Zoroastrian ideas, mediated through Judaism
      - a) Satan as a personification of evil
      - b) Good and bad demons who inhabit human bodies
      - c) Heaven and hell as the twin destinies of humanity
      - d) A divine savior who appears at the end of time

3. Stormy relations between Jews and Christians
  - a) The Council of Jamnia, A.D. 90, as a turning point
  - b) Causes of tensions between the two religions and their results
- D. Christianity and Greco-Roman religions and philosophies
  1. Christian borrowings from the mystery cults
  2. Christian appropriations from Stoicism and Neo-Platonism
- E. Christians in the Roman Empire
  1. Changing attitudes of Romans to Christians
    - a) The early years
    - b) The expansion of Christianity and its separation from Judaism
      - (1) Localized, random persecution
      - (2) Wide-ranging political assault in the mid-third century A.D.
  2. Christian borrowings from Roman culture
    - a) The Latin language
    - b) The Roman law
    - c) The state administrative structure
    - d) The imperial office
  3. Social patterns of conversion to the late second century A.D.
    - a) Social classes
    - b) Women
- F. Early Christian literature
  1. Early Roman commentators on the Christian faith
    - a) Celsus
    - b) Galen
  2. The first Christian writers
    - a) Tertullian
      - (1) Key ideas
      - (2) Uncompromising hostility to humanism
    - b) Origen
      - (1) Key ideas
      - (2) Harmony with the humanistic legacy
    - c) Vibia Perpetua
      - (1) Historic setting
      - (2) Willingness to die for one's beliefs
- G. Early Christian art
  1. Confusion over the role of art in the early church
  2. The triumph of humanistic values in art
  3. Art in the Roman catacombs
    - a) The symbol of the good shepherd
    - b) The symbol of a communion participant

c) Christian appropriation of Jewish biblical figures

IV. The Legacy of Biblical Judaism and Early Christianity