


Judaism

Origins

- ▶ Judaism began about 4,000 years ago in what is present-day Israel.
- ▶ The Israelites, or Hebrews, had different beliefs than others around them. They believed in monotheism.
- ▶ They recorded these ideas in the Torah.

- ▶ According to the Torah, God made a covenant with Abraham
- ▶ This covenant included two important declarations.
- ▶ Abraham and all of his descendants would have a special relationship with God. Believe they are the "chosen people"
- ▶ Canaan (known today as Palestine) was promised to them.

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- ▶ Moses is said to have renewed God's covenant with the Israelites.
 - ▶ He led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and to Canaan.

The Kingdom of Israel

- ▶ By 1000 BC the kingdom of Israel had been established, but there were twelve separate tribes who were always fighting
- ▶ David, the second king of Israel, united them into one nation
- ▶ David's son, Solomon, turned Jerusalem into the capital

Conquest

- ▶ As a result of unrest, the kingdom split.
- ▶ Eventually they fell to more powerful civilizations.

Teachings of Judaism

- ▶ The Ten Commandments - laws believed to have been given to Moses by God