

A Taste of Judaism
Michael Lotker
Session 2: Torah – Ethics and Rituals – the Jewish Way of Life

Questions From Last Time

Revelation

- Two leaps of faith – God and revelation
- The Meanings of Torah
 - Scroll (we will look at one) – visit the sanctuary
 - Chumash
 - All of Jewish sacred lit
 - A teaching
 - Issue of translation to Greek – impact on Christianity
- Revelation beyond Torah (chart)
 - Bible
 - Mishna
 - Talmud
 - Codes and Commentaries
- Exegetical approach – Judaism and Christianity

Jewish Law and the Three Movements

- Judaism's focus on what you do, not what you believe
- Examples of Jewish Law
 - Ethical
 - Murder, theft, adultery, lying
 - Shopkeepers' law
 - Ritual
 - Kashrui
 - Meat (including humane slaughtering)
 - Fish
 - Milk and Meat
 - Impact on Jewish people
 - Avoid mixing with non-Jews
 - Revulsion of blood
 - Spiritual discipline
 - Tallit (bring one)
 - Kippah
 - When does ritual impact ethical
- Movements and Jewish Law
 - Orthodox
 - Chasidic
 - Conservative
 - Reform
 - Greenberg quote “I don't care which movement you are affiliated with so long as you're ashamed of it.”

Prayer and Blessings

- The formal liturgy and prayer book
- Talking to God
- Blessings: 5 minutes a day that changed my life

Calendar & Holidays

- Hand out calendar
- Lunar Calendar
- Holidays had agricultural significance – rabbis gave historical significance
- Most Important
 - High Holy Days
 - Shabbat
 - Passover
 - Chanukah

Odds and Ends

- Jewish view vs. Christian view of Messiah
- The afterlife
- Theodicy