

# Jewish Literacy # 12 Jewish History

**Rabbi Michael Lotker  
Camarillo, California**

## Jewish History Not a Serious Subject Until the Last 150 Years or So.

**Meanings of Memory & History in Judaism Traditionally Religious**

- Purpose of Creation
- Failures of Humanity: Adam & Eve - Generation of Noah - Tower of Babel
- Selection of Abraham
  - Brit - Covenant
  - Family basis
  - New Strategy for *Tikkun Olam*
- Decent into Egypt makes us sensitive to plight of powerless among us
- Going Forth From Egypt – Redemption 1200 BCE - Revelation at Sinai
- Jewish Nation in Promised Land – 1000 BCE
  - Kings Saul > David > Solomon
  - Nation divided
- Sins & Prophets
- Northern Kingdom destroyed by Assyria – 722 BCE
- Babylonians as tools of God > Exile in 586 BCE
- Rebuilding of 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple in 520 BCE
- Romans Destroy 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple 70 CE
- Messiah comes - ???
- Bottom Line: History has direction moving toward redemption

<http://www.odveda.com/en/> for an amazing interactive timeline and chart of Jewish History

Home  
Rabbi Lotker  
Weddings  
Life Cycles & Funerals  
A Christian's Guide  
Classes  
Sermons  
Contact Rabbi Lotker

Click a link below to access  
> 2018-2019 General Information  
Below please find classes:  
> #1: Taste - God  
> #1a: Further Reading  
> #1b: Torah Texts About  
> #2: Taste - Torah  
> #2a: Selected Texts  
> #2b: Additional Materials  
> #3: Taste - Israel & Culture  
> #4: Hebrew Calendar  
> #4a: Additional Materials  
> #5: The High Holy Days  
> #5a: Additional Materials  
> #6: The Holidays: Hanukkah  
> #6a: Additional Materials

> #12 Jewish History: Creation - 19th Century  
> #12a Timeline of Jewish History and Heritage  
(click HERE for interactive web site)  
> #13 Judaism and Christianity

<http://www.odveda.com/en/> for an amazing interactive timeline and chart of Jewish History

### Timeline of Jewish History and Heritage

**Jewish Population (Millions)**

**World Events**

**Jewish Historical Figures**

**Jewish Literature**

Timeline of Jewish History and Heritage (click HERE for interactive web site)

This poster was made for you to learn and enjoy. Ancient times numbers and dates are estimated and are brought to tell the story.  
License: cc-by-sa, linking to "www.odveda.com/JewishTimelineEnUr". Enjoy. Ronen Rabinovich

## Historiography – the Biblical Period

- Some people in Egypt (*Merneptia Stella*)
- Evidence for conquest of Israel about 1200 BCE
- Some evidence for David & Solomon
  - Much better evidence for later Kings
- Destruction of 1<sup>st</sup> Temple and rebuilding under Cyrus
- Under Persian rule until Chanukah
- Rise of Hellenism
  - Septuagint – Greek translation of Bible
  - Battle for assimilation – Antiochus – Chanukah 165 BCE
  - Hasmoneans rule briefly and are conquered by Rome
- Roman period
  - Herod restores Temple
- Different Sects
  - Sadducees, Pharisees, Zealots, Essenes
  - Christians
- Not a lot really known about Judaism in Temple times
- Revolts against Rome, 66-70 & Bar Kochba in 135 CE

## History Post Temple Destruction

- Rabbic Period
  - Review of revolts
    - 70 CE
    - Bar Kochba
  - Mishna & Talmud
- The Roman Empire Becomes Christian
  - Constantine 313
  - Emergence of Christianity
  - The Split: Ashkenazim & Sephardim
- Muhammad and Islam
  - Muhammad born 570
  - Pilgrimage to Mecca 622
  - Death 632
  - Conquest of Jerusalem (and Palestine) by Arabs 638
  - Dome of Rock built 691

## Medieval History

- Up to 1000, center of Judaism in Babylon
  - 1099, Jerusalem conquered by Crusaders
  - 1187 Muslims recapture Jerusalem
- Spain: Jewish Golden Age under Muslim Rule (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> centuries)
  - Jews “protected” as *dhimmis*
  - Influence: Muslims invent
    - Theology
    - Grammar
    - Idea of God’s omnipotence and omniscience
  - Reconquista by Church
  - 1263 Nahmanides’ dispute in Barcelona
  - 1290s to 1390s: anti Jewish riots
    - Zohar and Kabbalah is a response
    - Anti Jewish laws
    - Forced conversions result in mass conversions of Jews
  - Inquisition & *Conversos* (*Marannos*)
  - Expulsion from Spain in 1492
    - From Portugal in 1495
    - Jews go to N. Africa, Ottoman Empire, Amsterdam, and Europe, New World

## Medieval History

- Meanwhile in Europe....
  - Jews living under special rights or “charters”
  - Fulfilling special roles as traders for feudal lords
    - Only group capable of crossing throughout Europe
    - Only group able to trade at Christian and Muslim ports
  - Gradually get pushed out of roles into lending roles as a trader/middle class develops

## Medieval History

- Suffering under Crusades
  - 12,000 Jews killed in early months.
  - In 1099, when Crusaders captured Jerusalem, they gathered all the city's Jews into a synagogue and burned them alive.
  - Theology of martyrdom develops (*kiddush HaShem*)
  - Church torn between:
    - Protection of Jews as testament to the validity of the Old Testament
    - But keep them downtrodden as evidence of divine punishment
- Ghettos began in Venice in 1555 and ended in 1870 (when the Pope lost civil authority)
- Shabbetai Tzvi (1626-1676): widely believed to be the Messiah.
- Chasidic Judaism
  - Founder: Israel Ba'al Shem Tov (1700-1760)
  - Currently about 20 such groups, one of which is *Chabad (Lubavitchers)*

## Emancipation and Enlightenment

- Jews' status changes from nationality to religion
  - Welcomed as citizens of France and elsewhere
  - But question of loyalty remains
    - Napoleon convenes Sanhedrin 1806
  - Jewish peoplehood viewed with suspicion
    - Voltaire quote: "(Jews are) the most abominable people in the world ... they are a totally ignorant nation who, for many years, have combined contemptible miserliness and the most revolting superstition with a violent hatred of all those nations that have tolerated them."
- Reform Judaism as a response to challenge of Jews living in a world that accepts us
- Jews begin to come to America
- Continuing small community in Israel (under Ottoman rule since 1516)

## Late 19th century

- Late 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - Russian pogroms
  - Mass emigration to America

### MORE INFO?

- see [www.JewishHistory.org](http://www.JewishHistory.org) for lots of details
- Also see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_Jewish\\_history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Jewish_history) for a detailed time line of Jewish History
- <http://www.odveda.com/en/> for an amazing interactive timeline and chart of Jewish History (next slide)