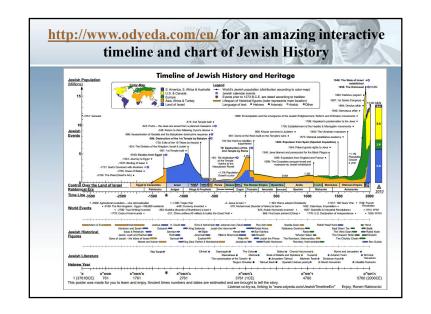




Jewish History Not a Serious Subject Until the Last 150 Years or So.

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 2nd Temple in 520 BCE
- Romans Destroy 2nd Temple 70 CE
- Messiah comes ???
- · Bottom Line: History has direction moving toward redemption



Historiography - the Biblical Period

- Some people in Egypt (Mernepta Stella)
- Evidence for conquest of Israel about 1200 BCE
- · Some evidence for David & Solomon
 - · Much better evidence for later Kings
- Destruction of 1st 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

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 (10th 12th 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

History Post Temple Destruction

- · Rabbinic 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

- 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)*

Late 19th century

- Late 19th century
 - Russian pogroms
 - Mass emigration to America

MORE INFO?

- see www.JewishHistory.org for lots of details
- Also see
 <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline of Jewish his</u>
 tory for a detailed time line of Jewish History
- http://www.odyeda.com/en/ for an amazing interactive timeline and chart of Jewish History (next slide)

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)