

Rels 131 Exam Review

Judaism

- **The Tanakh** (the bible)
- reading, studying and interpreting the Tanakh is a key component of jewish life/practice
- because main centre of judaism after the destruction of the second temple
- significance, not historicity, is the key concern
- Divided into 3 parts:
 - 1) **Torah** (laws or instructions)
 - 5 books: genesis, exodus, leviticus, numbers, and deuteronomy
 - creation story, 3 patriarchs, exodus from egypt, journey to the promised land
 - contains laws and rituals
 - traditionally believed to have been written by moses, now considered to have been written down from 6th - 4th century bce
 - considered most important by the jews
 - large scroll containing Torah is kept in the synagogue
 - read at synagogue and on sabbath (divided so that the entire torah is read through each year)
 - expectations of what god desires from people of Israel
 - 2) **Nevi'im** (the prophets) - eight books
 - history books and words of the prophets
 - short excerpt read at sabbath service each week
 - 3) **Ketuvim** (the writings)- eleven books
 - some historical books, primarily wisdom literature
 - subject of study away from worship

Canonization

- Communal acceptance of a person or book as genuine and divine
- antiquity mattered; last book included written in 160's bce
- process of canonization:
 - a) council of Jamnia, Circa 90 CE- rabbis voted on which books to included
 - b) a more gradual process completed in the 2nd century CE

Midrash

- process of studying bible undertaken by rabbis to interpret it
- term and method date back to (at least) the beginning of common era
- produced oral torah
- applies sacred text to contemporary situations
- midrash continues in form of commentaries and commentaries on commentaries

Mishnah

- record of interpretations of texts written down to preserve method/tradition

Talmud

- mishnah and commentaries of mishnah compiled and published
- Jerusalem Talmud
- babylonian talmud (the dominant talmud)

Key Figures

Abraham and Sarah

- first key figures of faith
- also important for christianity and islam
- family of nomadic herders
- Abraham referred to as “a hebrew”
- family moved from arabian peninsula to haran
- call from an “unknown god”
- gave birth to isaac from which the people of Israel are believed to have emerged

****Significance:**

- move towards monotheism
- sense of God choosing particular people
- notion of covenant
- abraham is a model of obedience to god and faith in god



Exodus

- Hebrews living in Egypt used as forced labour during the 14th and 13th centuries BCE on major construction projects of the Pharaohs
- During the latter half of the 13th century, these Hebrews, under the leadership of Moses, flee Egypt under miraculous circumstances and begin a journey back to Canaan
 - commemorated annually in feast of Passover
 - symbolizes God's saving activity on their behalf, through Moses leading the Hebrews from slavery to promised land (Canaan)

Moses

- leads people out of Egypt and through their time in the wilderness
- meets God on Mount Sinai
- traditionally believed to have written the Torah
- receives Decalogue (10 commandments)
- God revealed divine will to Moses regarding how people should live and worship

King David and Solomon

- United Kingdom of Israel reaches zenith under these kings (1000-922 BCE)
- David's age remembered as Golden Age
- idolized view of David became model for leaders
- Jerusalem becomes capital of UK
- Solomon's reign a time of peace
- Temple is built under Solomon
- after Solomon's death the kingdom separates into North (Israel) and South (Judah)
- both kingdoms eventually fall, leading to the exile

The Exile from Promised Land

- "impossible to over-estimate the importance of this event for Judaism
- religious tradition continues against all odds, religious center was destroyed, no homeland, no political entity

- During the exile judaism redevelops:
 - 1) religion becomes focused on study and ethical life
 - 2) Torah assumes its central place in judaism
 - 3) judaism becomes a religion that does not have (nor need) supporting political power
 - 4) the exile raises many theological questions about their relationship with god, as the chosen people
 - 5) monotheism becomes a key concept in Judaism
 - 6) Raises the question of zealous proselytization; Is it part of the Jewish life?

- Persian empire defeats babylon empire in 539 bce, Cyrus allows jews to return to judah
- jerusalem and temple are rebuilt
- a majority of jews now live outside of judah

Second Temple (515 bce)

- rebuilt under King Cyrus of persia
- provided a 'visible centre' for Judaism
- rites and rituals become important
- hereditary priestly class forms

Maccabean Revolt (or Hasmonean Revolt)

- revolt by a judean rebel group known as the Maccabean against the Seleucid empire
- Antiochus attempted to abolish Judaism in Judea to unify his empire
- successful: period of partial independence for jews
- recaptured temple and rededicated it
- temple recapture commemorated at festival of Hanukkah

Developments that ensure continuity of Judaism - 100 bce-150 ce

- the synagogue, prominent in homeland and diaspora
- rabbis become teachers and leaders
- torah holds a central role in judaism
- written canon of the bible closed (no more additions)
- IN SUMMARY judaism no longer dependent upon a land or a geographic centre

Rome To Modernity

- Jews persecuted under catholic rome, forced to convert
- Jews treated better under islam, since islam was more intellectually advanced at this time

- jews become key leaders in science, medicine, and commerce
- jewish philosophy
- branches of judaism form in response to the enlightenment

The holocaust

- Jews in germany persecuted under hitler
- 6 mill killed in death camps and forced marches
- destroyed jewish communities and raises theological questions for some jews

Sabbath (weekly)

- key aspect of Jewish rhythm of time
- 6 days for work, 1 for rest
- Begins sunset on friday
- concludes with first 3 stars are visible on saturday night
- synagogue service on friday evening or saturday morning (includes reading from torah or from the prophets)
- begins with lighting of candles at home and a family meal
- entire torah read at synagogue throughout the year

Passover

- begins on 15th day of the month of Nisan (full moon following the spring equinox in northern hemisphere)
- commemorates the Exodus, escape from egypt
- when temple existed jews who were able headed to Jerusalem
- now Passover is celebrated at home with one's friends and family
- focussed around a evening meal, the Seder (includes a specific diet)
- recounting of the story of the escape from egypt

Rosh Hashanah

- jewish new year
- mid september- early october
- 10 day period of self examination/reflection
- seeks forgiveness for wrongful conduct
- Sombre synagogue service, high attendance

- more festive mood at home

Yom Kippur

- day of atonement (reconciliation from god)
- In Judaism it used to be the one day when the high priest would say God's name aloud (used to be YHWH, now one says Adonai)
- attended even by cafeteria jews who normally don't go to synagogue
- 10th day of tishri
- marked by great solemnity
- feast before and after, fast during
- centered at the synagogue

Shavuot (pentecost)

- occurs 50 days after passover
- Celebrates moses reception of 10 commandments
- in days of temples Jews would journey to jerusalem

Hanukkah

- December
- "festival of lights"
- celebrates rededication of the temple (164 bce) after the forces of Judas Maccabeus captured it from Antiochus
- 8 day festival, 1 candle lit each day

Purim

- occurs one month before passover, begins with full moon
- highly celebratory festival
- celebrates Queen Esther in saving the jews from persian extermination
- fast before, feast during
- alcohol permitted until "tipsy"

Bar Mitzvah

- for boys at age 13
- boy reads from torah and haftarah
- in synagogue
- rabbi addresses him

- father offers a blessing that he is no longer responsible for his son's actions
- major celebration follows

Bat Mitzvah

- of recent origin
- occurs when girl is 12
- in some branches of judaism the girl reads from the torah
- recognition of achieving adulthood
- major celebration follows

Covenant

- early roots, Noah is the 1st
- abraham's covenant is especially important
- the people of israel have a covenant with God

Parts of the Covenant

Ethical Living

- living in accordance with covenant to god
- care for poor, landless, strangers et cetera
- philanthropy
- Responsibility to help make the world what God would want it to be

Land

- gifted to Abraham in his covenant with god

Sabbath

- part of serving god
- resting on 7th day like god
- rest and reflect

Messiah

- anointed one

Different groups of Judaism

- branches form in the 19th century
- Rabbinic Judaism ->traditional judaism (which survived roman destruction of palestine)

2 major different Ethnic lines in contemporary judaism:

Ashkenazim

- descendants of jews who migrated to italy in 1st +2nd century

Sephardim

- migrants to spain in 8th and 9th century

Different branches today (day 10, more detail)

- reform
- orthodox
- conservative
- ultra-orthodox
- reconstructionist
- humanistic

Jews in europe (200-1800 ce)

- periodic persecution
- jews tended to live separated from other people, in villages or ghettos
- not regarded as citizens of countries
- no civil rights
- no secular jew in this time period (ie no jewish ethnicity recognized)

ISLAM

Qur'an

- key sacred text of Islam
- divided into 114 chapters (surahs) and then sub-divided into verses (ayahs)
- intended to inspire, instruct, and guide (teachings about how to live in community)
- includes stories and references to key figures found in the Tanakh and Christian bible
- intended to be recited in Arabic; some understanding may be lost in translation (which are seen as interpretations)
- recited publicly and privately

Muhammed

- founder of Islam
- encounter with the angel Gabriel
- begins receiving revelations from God (Allah) through the angel.
- lived in Mecca
- established a community in Medina that lived in accordance with the revelations he has received

Break between the Sunni and Shi'a

- fourth caliph is ali
- after Ali's death the Umayyad dynasty begins to rule
- ali's son rebels against the Umayyad caliph
- Ali's son loses and Islam is divided
- Shi'a believe that Ali was the appropriate successor of the Prophet Muhammad

Sunni

- largest group: constitutes 80-90% of muslims
- split with the Shi'a occurred in 680 over who should have been the successor of muhammed
- believe that Muhammad did not appoint a successor; he left the decision to the muslim community
- Sunni comes from "Ahl al-sunna, means "people of the tradition"
- more traditionalist than the Shi'a
- both groups follow the 5 pillars

Shi'a

- term means follower of Ali
- majority of Muslims in Iran are Shi'a
- believe the prophet choose Ali (his cousin and son in law) as his successor
- believe all Imam must be direct descendents of Muhammad
- believe the Imam was the guide for interpreting Shari'ah

Isma'ili

- division amongst Shi'a after the death of the 6th Imam
- dispute over whether the 6th Imam's son should succeed
- people for the son are known as the "seveners"
- minority group within Shi'a
- largest numbers found in pakistan, Afghanistan, and India

Umayyad Dynasty

- ruled until 750 ce
- established Damascus as its centre
- significant expansion under this dynasty
- succeeded Ali
- succeeded by Abbasids

Islam's rapid growth

- Saw itself as a successor to both Judaism and Christianity
- allowed Christians and Jews in territories it captured militarily to practise their respective religions freely
- similar structures (Asceticism) in Islam made it attractive for many Christians

- Militarily strong
- traders and travellers spread the message

Isma'lis

- Large minority Shi'a group are the Isma'lis
- Isma'lis disagree about the identity of the 7th Imam
- The elder son of the 6th Imam died before his father; father appointed a younger son as his successor
- Isma'lis believe that the son of the deceased elder son, Ahmad, was the rightful Imam
- Isma'lis trace a succession from him to the present (currently the 49th Imam in this line, as in the 49th after the Prophet Muhammad)

Sufism

- Not a separate group like Sunni or Shi'a
- An ascetic and mystical tradition that runs across Islam
- This mystical tradition not initially accepted by many, and still is not regarded as Islamic by some Muslims
- Roots of Sufism and early practitioners found almost from the beginning of Islam
- Textbook notes, accurately, that initial strength of the ascetic movement found in places where a tradition of asceticism in other religious traditions existed
- Mystical side developed from early ascetic practices
- Key components:
 - 1)Deep love for God, often expressed in quite erotic language
 - 2)Desire for a union with God, sometimes described as a spiritual union, sometimes a sense of being absorbed into the divine, sometimes language suggesting almost a physical union with the divine

Core Concepts

- Oneness of God

1) Muslims believe that this concept underlies not only Islam but also other monotheistic religions with which it would have this understanding in common; believe that monotheism was the religion present at the creation of the world; subsequently corrupted into polytheism

2) This concept of the oneness of God is part of the *Shahadah*, the profession of faith which is also the First Pillar of Islam

3) The existence and presence of God is something one should bear in mind at all times; Sufi mystics will carry this concept further in terms of the relationship with the divine

4) No prophet, including the Prophet Muhammad, is divine

5) Creating idols is a great sin

Shari'ah

- Islamic Law / sacred or God's law
- Key Written sources are The Qur'an, Hadith, and the Sunnah
- both action and intention are important
- deals with both public and private life
- means "path to be should follow" or "path to the water hole" in archaic arabic

5 Pillars of Islam

1) Shahadah

- one professes 2 claims : unity of God and only one god...AND that Muhammad is God's messenger
- requirement to be deemed a muslim, sufficient condition as Muhammad said
- many muslims recite their belief as soon as they are able to talk and also before they die
- the inscription is written all over the place, for example on the flag of saudi arabia

2) Salat

- 5 periods of prayer per day (dawn, mid-day, afternoon, sunset, night)
- ritual washing before each prayer
- one faces MEcca with the beginning of each prayer period
- powerful unity since all muslims around the world pray at the same time
- while also allows individuals to bring personal thoughts and concerns to God
- very ritualized form of prayer, specific verses said
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3)Zakat

- alms giving/charity
- obligation to give 2.5% of your wealth
- to help others in need and also to keep one from becoming too focused on material (reminds people that they should serve God and their neighbour)
- literally means purification

4) Ramadan

- celebrates the giving of the Qur'an
- fasting during the holy month of ramadan
- Muslims fast from Dawn to Sunset during Ramadan
- exemptions for the sick, travellers, woman who are pregnant

- refrain from sex, drink, food, and smoking
- unifying (all muslims participate)
- “level” of social distinctions since all muslims fast, regardless of wealth or status
- fasting intended to make you more attentive to God
- ends with three day celebration
- helps remember the poor and practice temperance

5)Hajj

- 3 day pilgrimage to Mecca
- 12th month of Islamic calendar
- 2.5-3 million Muslims participate annually
- all muslims who are able try to make the pilgrimage at least once in their life
- travel to Arafat, then mina, return to Mecca
- animal sacrifice
- many rituals on the course of the pilgrimage kiss the kabba, throw stones at an idol, drinking water, running back and forth between two mountains, wearing white clothes

Christianity

The Bible

- key sacred text of Christianity
- 2 basic divisions: old and new testament
- often referred to as “The Scriptures”

New testament

- most books date back to the 1st century ce

- contains 27 books (gospels, Acts of the apostles, Pauline Epistles, Other Epistles, revelations)
- contains Jesus teachings, account of Jesus as a person, and 1st century Christianity
- contains the gospels
- originally written in Greek
- the central sacred text for Christians
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Old testament

- all Christians accept the Tanakh as Sacred text
- different arrangement than in the Tanakh

4 Gospels

- not biographies, though they do contain historical material
- written to tell Christians and potential converts why Jesus was so significant
- Scholars believe: stories of Jesus life and teachings circulated orally
- some sayings of Jesus written down in a now lost source, often called "Q"
- Mark's first to be written
- Matthew and Luke had Mark and Q as sources
- John's gospel deviates from the other 3 (other 3 are quite consistent)

Jesus

- central figure in Christianity
- born a few years before beginning of the Common Era
- died circa. 30 CE
- born, lived, and died a Jew (Christianity's Jewish roots shape its beginning and early development)
- developed a sizeable group of followers
- Christians understand him to be their Saviour
- has human and divine natures

His followers believed:

- he was the long promised Messiah of Judaism
- he rose from the dead after his crucifixion

Augustine of Hippo

- 354-430
- arguably the most significant and influential thinker in western christian thought
- 97 surviving works
- wrote a number of biblical commentaries
- developed a "just war theory" which is still influential in western Christianity

Thomas Aquinas

- 1224-1274
- developed 5 proofs for the existence of God
- made a greater place for reason in Christian theological thought
- leading theologian of western christianity in the medieval period
- father of Thomism

Martin Luther

- german monk who doubts his effort towards salvation
- thought biblical studies at U of Wittenberg
- studies led him to the conclusion that salvation is a gift from god, accessible by faith
- did not intend to start a new denomination, lutheranism became a separate branch
- luther and his views were condemned by the pope in 1520
- Lutheranism spreads though much of Germany and eventually into scandinavia

The Trinity

- dispute in Eastern Christianity in 4th century over this concept
- everyone agreed that Jesus was divine, but divine in the same way as God?
- final resolution at the Council of Constantinople in 381
- One God- father, son, and Holy Spirit
- incorporated into the beginning and end of every prayer for Christians

Worship

- Christians expected to engage in individual practices such as prayer, but primary worship is at communal gatherings (both individual and communal practice/prayer)
- some denominations have daily communal worship, though emphasis is on weekly worship
- most denominations have their primary worship service on Sunday
- Sunday worship symbolizes the day Jesus rose from the dead, i.e. the first day of the week
- great variations in procession and length

Time

- rhythm for Christians is both weekly and yearly
- worship service each week expected to be attended
- Advent begins the Christian year

Advent

- starts the Christian year
- starts on the 4th Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve
- Sundays are most significant occasions during Advent
- emphasis is on self-assessment/repentance and preparation for the coming of Christ the child
- candle lit each Sunday

Christmas

- eve december 24th, day 25th
- celebration of birth of jesus
- one of the holiest days for christians
- service often held on xmas eve to celebrate jesus birth
- gifts given to symbolize the gifts given to jesus at his birth by wise men

Epiphany

- january 6th
- older christian festival than christmas
- in eastern tradition it was initially a celebration of his birth, visit of Magi to see him and his baptism
- in eastern tradition emphasis on Jesus' baptism
- in western tradition primary emphasis of magi's visit

Lent

- preparation for Jesus' crucifixion
- period of repentance
- 40 days before easter
- begins with ash wednesday
- weekly3 scripture reading focuses on Jesus final journey to Jerusalem where he would be arrested and executed

Easter

- holiest day in the christian calendar
- commemorates Jesus' resurrection
- first sunday after the 1st full moon after the vernal equinox
- resurrection 3rd day of burial after his crucifixion
- symbol of salvation
- described in the new testament
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Pentecost

- 50th day after easter
- celebrates what christians believe to be the descent of the holy spirit on Jesus' immediate followers
- biblical account of this event in Acts of the Apostles
- understood as beginning of the christian church
- aloud his followers to speak in many tongue

Eucharist

- also called "the lord's supper" or "holy communion"
- a remembrance of jesus last meal with his disciples
- sacrament involves members eating bread and drinking wine or grape juice
- believed by christians to be the blood and body of Jesus christ
- eaten by many denominations at the sunday service
- can only be accepted after a christian's first communion
- celebrates the revelation of God as a human through Jesus Christ

Different Branches or Denominations

- many different denominations
- some very small
- some large: roman catholic church has 1.1 billion members
- some are found in 1 country, some world wide

Oriental Orthodox Churches

- deminoniations form in mid 5th century
- believe jesus had 2 nature's prior to his birth, after that he had only a divine nature
- ethiopian orthodox church has the largest following
- share many practices and positions with the eastern orthodox tradition

Eastern Orthodox Church

- formal split with east and west in 1054
- more similarities to roman catholic than protestant
- recognize 7 sacraments
- married priests are permitted but bishops must be celibate
- worship includes singing

Both

- pictorial rep of jesus mary and saints

Roman Catholic

- largest christian body, 1.1 billion
- head is the pope
- emphasis on participation in sacraments, especially the eucharist
- 7 Sacraments(baptism, confirmation, eucharist, reconciliation, anointing of the sick, marriage, holy orders)
- clergy must be male and unmarried

Anglican Church

- product of reformation of the church of england with King Henry the 8th
- 80 million members
- seperately governed in each country
- sometimes regarded as protestant, but generally placed in its own category
- emphasis on scripture and sacraments
- allows married clergy, and in some countries female clergy

Protestant

- great variety among denomination
- some large branches some small
- scripture seen as the primary authority in matters of doctrine
- most let women as clergy and some gay and lesbian

Lutheran Church

- founder was martin luther
- begins in germany, spreads to scandinavia
- break from unified christian church
- national organization, no central figure
- approx 80 million members
- 2 sacraments
- bible as key authority for theology
- closer in worship to roman catholic and anglican

Reformed Tradition

- term covers group of protestant denominations
- 80 million members divided among a little more than 200 different denominations
- John Calvin key theologian and most famous figure
- origin lies in reformation movement begun in switzerland

Baptism

- found throughout the world
- exceed 100 million members
- emphasis on bible
- sacraments seen as relatively important
- each congregation has great independence

Anabaptist

- reform movement from 1520's germany
- most radical of the reformation
- persecuted in 16-17th centuries
- still persecuted in some countries today

Methodist

- reform to church of england in 18th century
- several sub branches
- rapid spread in 19th century
- largest numbers in african and asia

Pentecostal Tradition

- origins lie in the “Holiness movement” in US
- “speaking in tongues” a feature of pentecostalism
- spread amongst working class in usa first half of 20th century
- post world war 2 spread in middle and upper class in canada and USA
- world wide growth after WW2
- 150-500 million world wide
- great emphasis on holy spirit but scripture is also important
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