

**Sara & Megan's**  
**The Study of World Religions NTC**



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RELG 207  
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**YHWH (Yahweh)** - The Jewish name for God. It is usually unspoken. It literally means "I am who I am." It denotes a God that is personal, all powerful, and all loving.

**Ethical Monotheism**- Monotheism means "God is one." It is ethical monotheism because God is just and righteous, and he cares about human welfare.

**Creation (Nature)** – By creation, we mean God has created the world as good and the world is not something to escape from. It is not an illusion, a source of evil, a realm of suffering, etc. There is something intrinsically good about being here.

**Image of God**- Human beings. Human beings are different than plants, animals, etc. Being created in the image of God means that humans have a specific purpose here, which is to rule over and care for this world.

**Sin**- To miss the mark and not fulfilling the role you were created for. For example, if all human beings were created in the image of God and you go out and kill someone, then you miss the mark because you fail to realize that everyone was created in the image of God.

**Hebrew Bible**- It includes 39 books. There are 5 types of books: law, prophetic books, historical books, poetry, and wisdom literature.

**Torah (Law)** - The first five books in the Hebrew Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, the Book of Numbers, and Deuteronomy (deuter- the second giving + onomy- law = the second giving of the law).

**Promised Land**- This is the land that God promised to Abraham and to his descendants in the book of Genesis. The boundaries of this land occupy roughly present day Israel.

**Chosen People**- God has chosen a specific group of people out of all of humanity, which initiates a process where the whole of humanity can be reconciled to him. The Jewish people have realized that being "chosen" may include suffering both on behalf of other people and on behalf of your faith. This has a profound meaning in terms of the Holocaust. This is how they make sense of the large number of people that died during this period. In this way, you can find a spiritual meaning in suffering.

**Covenantal History**- The history recorded in the Hebrew Bible that is read as conversations between God and his disciples. It always has a moral point.

**Genesis**- The first book in the Hebrew Bible that contains stories about the creation and the calling of Abraham. Genesis comes from the Greek word meaning "to begin."

**Exodus-** The second book in Hebrew Bible. It contains stories about how God called Moses to lead the people out of Egypt, where they were being held as slaves. Also, it includes the story about how God makes his covenant with the people at Mount Sinai. The book of Exodus contains the 10 commandments.

**Mount Sinai-** This is a mountain in the Sinai Peninsula, which is between Israel and Egypt. This is the location where God makes his covenant with his people. Moses talks to God for 40 days on Mount Sinai and then returns with the 10 commandments.

**Ten Commandments-** You do not have to memorize these. The heart of the covenant. The laws God gives to his people.

**Shabat (Sabbath)** - The seventh day of the week. For Jews, this begins on Friday night and ends on Saturday night. The justification for the Sabbath day is contained in the accounts of creation: "on the seventh day God rested." Thus, in order to follow in God's footsteps, the Hebrew people are commanded to work 6 days and rest of the seventh.

*Note: Hebrew= Israelite= Jews. All these terms refer to the same people.*

**Judah-** One of the 12 sons of Jacob and becomes one of the 12 Tribes of Israel. Judah was also one of the grandsons of Abraham. It is from the tribes of Judah that we get the terms Judaism and Jewish.

**Covenant-** A binding agreement between two parties. God has certain responsibilities and Israel has certain responsibilities. It is seen as a responsive agreement. Every covenant that is made anticipates the next covenant. God makes at least 3 covenants with Abraham, which lays the ground work for the one he makes with the people at Mount Sinai.

**Abraham-** lived around 4,000 years ago. He is believed to be the first person that God reveals himself to. This is a view that Judaism, Christianity and Islam share.

**Moses-** The man called by God to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. Moses serves as a mediator between God and the people of Israel.

**Temple-** Built by the third king of Israel, King Solomon. This is the first time in Jewish history that God is worshipped in a permanent location. The temple is built in Jerusalem. Prior to this, God was worshipped in a mobile tent. It was built around the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E.

**Prophet-** Men, and a few women, that are called by God to remind the people of Israel, even the Kings, to keep the commandments. For example, when King David sleeps around, the prophets remind him that his behaviour is incorrect. The prophets maintain the moral seriousness of the covenant and guarantee the ethical character of Jewish Monotheism.

**Babylonian Exile-** The exile of Judah in 786 B.C.E. Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonian Empire and the Israel leaders were carried off into exile to Babylon. This lasts approximately 70 years.