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World Religions

Professor Reitz

Unit 1

### **Worldviews: Judaism**

In the summary of the seven worldviews, Geisler speaks on the many different religions that exist in the world. I am going to focus on the religion of Judaism, which is a monotheistic religion, the belief in one God. Judaism began in Israel, more than 3,500 years ago during the Bronze Age. This religion is known as the oldest monotheistic religion. Their Holy Book is known as the Torah, which is a collection of Hebrew scriptures. The scriptures include laws, teachings, and guidance. The story of Creation, God's covenant, and commandments has a very important role in the Torah.

The Jewish religion normally has prayer that takes place in their homes or in a synagogue. They are often led by a rabbi who has religious knowledge and teaches them. They pray three times a day, in the morning, afternoon, and evening, in order to build their relationship with God. They have to face Jerusalem while they are praying and sing, chant, or recite certain phrases daily. They also tend to sway or bow down when they are praying showing passion for God. Most Jewish men are seen wearing a kippah, and women who are married wear a scarf on their heads for respect to God.

God has revealed Himself to Abraham, Moses, and many prophets in the Old Testament. Jewish people see themselves as descendants of Abraham, and they follow some of his examples. They follow the ten commandments from Moses and other commandments as well that are a part

of their religion. Based on the law, Jewish people also do not eat pork, any insects, or any meat that is not slaughtered ritually. They tend to mostly eat foods that are kosher and fruits and vegetables.

Those who follow Judaism believe that the Messiah is coming to earth from the line of David. This Messiah is supposed to be holy and rule over the world, bringing salvation to His people. Based on prophecies in the Torah, they are still seeking for the Messiah to come to the earth and save mankind. Their Messiah is supposed to rebuild the Temple for a new place of worship, restore the land, and its laws. Jewish people do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah like Christians. They believe that Jesus did not accomplish tasks and fulfill what was in the Torah. Due to Jesus not physically rebuilding the temple, not being royalty, and not leading men in great battles they did not believe he was the Messiah that God had promised to come.

This world religion is in contrast with my beliefs, because I believe in Christianity. Although the God of Judaism and Christianity are the same, I believe that Jesus is the true Messiah unlike the Jewish people. Jesus is a fulfillment to all of the prophecies that were said in the Old Testament. Jesus came from the line of David, went through physical torment as David's prophecy said, the division of the Messiah's clothes, God protecting the bones of the Messiah, etc. Jesus has come to earth like God promised saving man from sin and redeeming them from damnation.