Judaism

A 4000 year old religion…

* **The Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (“Israel”) – origins of the Hebrew people (more than 3800 years ago)**
* **Enslaved in ancient Egypt and freed by Moses (more than 3300 years ago)**

The belief in one and only one God is called **monotheism**.

The Jews believed they were God’s chosen people.

**Jewish sacred texts describe the laws and principles of Judaism.**

**Torah**

* Most sacred text of Judaism
* Five books containing most of the ancient Jewish laws
* Also contains history of the Jewish people until the death of Moses

**Hebrew Bible**

* Also called the Tanach
* First part: Torah
* Second part: Eight books of messages of the Hebrew prophets
* Third part: Eleven books of poetry, songs, stories, lessons, and history, with Psalms and Proverbs

**Traditions and holy days celebrate the history and religion of the Jewish people.**

* Hanukkah (December)
  + Ancient Jews celebrating a victory witnessed lamp oil   
     for one day miraculously burn for eight full days.
  + Today Jews light candles on eight-armed menorahs and   
     exchange gifts to celebrate the event.
* Passover (March or April)
  + Celebrates the Exodus from Egypt
* High Holy Days (September or October)
  + Rosh Hashanah: start of a new year in the Jewish calendar
  + Yom Kippur: Jews ask God to forgive their sins.