

# Contents

*List of Illustrations* xi

## **CHAPTER 1** **1**

### **Unpacking a Definition**

<b>Overview</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>The Plan of This Book</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>In Review</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>The Operating Definition of Judaism</i>		<b>Key Terms</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>in The Jewish Experience</i>	3	<b>Questions for Review, Study, and Discussion</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Sociologically Speaking . . .</i>	3	<b>Suggested Readings</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>The Importance of the Literary Tradition</i>	5		
<i>The Two Calendars of Jewish Life</i>	5		
<i>The Centrality of the God of Israel</i>	6		
<i>Judaism, Jewish People, and God</i>	6		

## **CHAPTER 2** **13**

### *Cycles of History: The Judaic Journey*

<b>Overview</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Kingdoms of Judah and Israel</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>14</b>	Reign of Saul	18
Historical Sources	14	Reign of David	18
Ways of Reading the Hebrew Bible	14	Reign of Solomon	20
Two Notes on Calendaring	15	Downfall of the Two Kingdoms	20
<b>Beginnings until the Monarchy</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Social Structures of Ancient Israel</b>	<b>22</b>
Migratory Tribes	16	Patriarchal Structure	22
Egyptian Monarchy	17	Rise of Urbanization	24
Confederation of Tribes	17		

Before the Destruction of the First Temple to Alexander the Great	24	Middle Ages and Transition: Sixteenth to Seventeenth Centuries	33
The Age of the Prophets	25	Internal Jewish Dynamics	33
Babylonian Captivity	25	Further Christian Persecutions	34
Return to Palestine	26	False Messiahs	34
The Second Temple Period and the Conflicts with Hellenism and “Romanism”	26	Pre- and Early Modernity: The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries	35
Hasmonean Revolt and Rule	27	Period of Jewish Emancipation	35
Oppression under Roman Rule	27	Four Jewish Movements	36
Destruction of the Second Temple	28	Impact of Secularization	37
Aftermath of the First Roman War	28	Modernity: The Twentieth Century and Beyond	39
Bar Kokhba Revolt	29	Immigration and Emigration	40
Rise of Rabbinical Academies	29	Antisemitism in Europe	40
Fourth to Seventh Centuries	30	Germany and the Holocaust/Shoah	41
Constantine, Christianity, and the Edict of Milan	30	Conclusion	45
Emergence of Islam	30	In Review	45
Middle Ages: Eighth to Fifteenth Centuries	31	Key Terms	45
The First Crusade	31	Questions for Review, Study, and Discussion	46
Later Crusades and Jewish Oppression	32	Suggested Readings	47
A Golden Age	32	A Timeline of Jewish History	48
Jewish Expulsions and Diasporas	33		

**CHAPTER 3****51***Cycles of Texts: Building the Foundation*

Overview	51	Talmuds: Babylonian and Palestinian (Jerusalem)	74
Introduction	51	Midrash	74
Torah/Hebrew Bible	52	Zohar	77
<i>Chumash</i> : The First Five Books of the Torah and of Moses	54	Two Other Judaic Literatures: Codes and <i>Responsa</i>	77
<i>Nevi'im</i> : The Prophetic Literature (The Sermonic Collection)	60	In Review	80
<i>Ketuvim</i> : “The Writings” (The Literary Collection)	69	Key Terms	80
Mishnah	73	Questions for Review, Study, and Discussion	81
		Suggested Readings	82

**CHAPTER 4****83***Cycles of Thought: Judaic Philosophy*

Overview	83	The Earliest Periods of Judaic Thought	84
Introduction	83	Philo of Alexandria	85
		The Talmudic Commentaries	86

<b>The Ninth to the Fourteenth Centuries</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries</b>	<b>96</b>
Yehuda Ha-Levi	88	Moses Mendelssohn	96
Dunash ibn Labrat	89	Hermann Cohen	97
Maimonides	89	<b>The Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>The Fourteenth to the Seventeenth Centuries</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>104</b>
Abravanel	92	<b>In Review</b>	<b>104</b>
Manasseh ben Israel	93	<b>Key Terms</b>	<b>104</b>
Uriel da Costa	93	<b>Questions for Review, Study, and Discussion</b>	<b>105</b>
Baruch de Spinoza	94	<b>Suggested Readings</b>	<b>105</b>

**CHAPTER 5** **107**

*Cycles of Belief: Judaic Theology*

<b>Overview</b>	<b>107</b>	Conservative Judaism	114
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>107</b>	Reform Judaism	115
<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>Leading Modern Jewish Intellectuals</b>	
The Biblical God	108	in the Pre-Holocaust Period	115
A Chosen People	109	<b>Jewish Philosophy and Theology</b>	
An Eternal God	110	in the Post-Holocaust Period	117
A Transcendent and Immanent God	111	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Rabbinic Theology</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>In Review</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Medieval Theology</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>Key Terms</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Modern Theology</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>Questions for Review, Study, and Discussion</b>	<b>122</b>
Orthodoxy	113	<b>Suggested Readings</b>	<b>122</b>
Hasidism	114		

**CHAPTER 6** **123**

*Cycles of Time: The Judaic Calendar*

<b>Overview</b>	<b>123</b>	Sefirat Haomer: Counting the Omer and	
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>123</b>	Lag B'Omer	142
<b>Calendar</b>	<b>124</b>	Shavuot: Festival of Weeks	142
Shabbat	126	Tisha B'Av: The Ninth Day of Av	143
Rosh Hashanah	129	Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) and	
Yom Kippur	130	Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day)	143
Sukkot	133	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>144</b>
Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah	134	<b>In Review</b>	<b>144</b>
Hanukkah	135	<b>Key Terms</b>	<b>144</b>
Tu B'Shevat	137	<b>Questions for Study, Review, and Discussion</b>	<b>145</b>
Purim	138	<b>Suggested Readings</b>	<b>145</b>
Passover (Pesach)	140		

**CHAPTER 7** **147*****Cycles of Life: The Life-Cycle Journey***

Overview	147	Conversion	160
Introduction	147	Death, Burial, and Mourning	161
Brit Milah: The Covenant of Circumcision	148	Addendum: Jewish Synagogal and	
Naming a Daughter	150	Communal Life	164
Pidyon Haben: The Redemption of the		<i>Aninut</i>	162
Firstborn Son	151	<i>Shivah</i>	163
Consecration	152	<i>Sheloshim</i>	163
Bar and Bat Mitzvah	152	In Review	166
Confirmation	154	Key Terms	166
Marriage (and Engagement)	155	Questions for Review, Study, and Discussion	167
Divorce	159	Suggested Readings	167

**CHAPTER 8** **169*****Cycles of the Here and Now: The Twenty-First-Century Moment and Beyond***

Overview	169	Antisemitism: Hatred Old and New	175
Introduction	169	The Middle East: Israel and Her Neighbors	177
American, Israeli, and Worldwide Jewish		Conclusion	180
Survival	170	In Review	181
American Jewish Communities	171	Key Terms	181
State of Israel	173	Questions for Review, Study, and Discussion	181
Jews Worldwide	174	Suggested Readings	181

**CHAPTER 9** **183*****Conclusion: The Future of Judaism and the Jewish People***

Overview	183	Key Terms	187
Final Thoughts	183	Questions for Review, Study, and Discussion	187
Conclusion	186	Suggested Readings	187
In Review	187		

*Appendix 1: Torah/Hebrew Bible, Roman Catholic Bible, and Protestant Bible* 189

*Appendix 2: Rank-Ordering of Prophetic Books included in Jewish Sabbath and Festival Worship Services* 191

*Notes* 193

*Glossary* 205

*For Further Reading* 219

*Index* 221