**III. Judaism**

1. Origins of Belief

* 15 million followers today – (1/10th of world’s population)
* Judaism laid the foundation for both Christianity and Islam
* Practiced by over ½ of the world’s population today
* Begin with the Hebrews who later were called the Jews
* **Torah –**
* **Monotheism –**
* **Yahweh –**
* **Abraham –**

1. God’s Chosen People

* Hebrews believed that they are the chosen people of God
* **Canaan –**
* **Covenant –**

1. Let My People Go

* **2000 BC –**
* Hebrews were forced to flee Canaan and move to Egypt because of drought and famine
* Once in Egypt the Hebrews were enslaved
* **Moses –**
* Considered the greatest figure in Jewish history
* **Exodus –**

1. A New Covenant

* While leaving Egypt, Moses climbed Mt. Sinai
* God gave Moses the Ten Commandments
* Believed that these laws formed a new covenant
* **New Covenant:**
* **Ethical Monotheism –**

1. Kingdom of Israel

* After the exile, Judah was the only large tribe of the Hebrews left
* Hebrews were now called the Jews and their religion called Judaism
* The Jews united under the kings of Saul, David, and Solomon
* **Israel –**
* **Jerusalem –**

1. Temple of Solomon

* Solomon created a huge building project in Jerusalem
* Built a great temple to house the Ark of the Covenant
* Building projects strain the Jews and they split into two main groups

1. Babylonian Captivity

* **Tribute –**
* **King Nebuchadnezzar –**
* **Hanging Gardens –**