

Family Feud: The Children of Abraham (ethnic & spiritual)		Moleski, SJ	Semites
Sarah (wife) Isaac (second son) Jacob (second son; a.k.a. " Israel ") 12 sons: The Patriarchs (" fathers ") of 12 Tribes. Judah is one of the 12 sons and one of the 12 tribes. Jews are Judahites. Northern Kingdom (Israel) destroyed; 10 tribes lost. 11th tribe melts into Judah . Babylonian Captivity: <i>Temple destroyed, Messiah/Christ lost.</i>	~1700 BC? ~722 BC ~586 BC	Hagar (servant) Ishmael (first-born son) Arabs are descended from Ishmael.	 <i>Israelites</i> <i>Hebrews</i> <i>Judaism,</i> <i>Jews</i>
Some Jews preach Jesus as the Christ/King, son of David, son of God (God, the Son). Jerusalem & "Jews for Jesus" destroyed. Afterward, Christianity is a Jewish sect in which very few Jews participate (!).	29 AD 70 AD		 <i>Christians</i>
	622 AD	Mohammed is an Arab. (<i>Most Muslims today are not Arabs. Not all Arabs are Muslim.</i>)	 <i>Islam,</i> <i>Muslims</i>

Ancient **Israel** consisted of 12 tribes. All that is left of Israel is *one* of the tribes: **Judah**. The religious language of the Jews is **Hebrew**. All Jews may be called **Israelites**, though not all Israelites were Jews. Because Abraham was a descendant of Noah's son, **Shem** (Sem), both Jews and Arabs are **semites**. Most people use the word "**anti-semitism**" when what they really mean is "anti-judaism." Among the **semitic languages** are Hebrew, Arabic, and Aramaic (the dialect that Jesus probably spoke as a boy in Galilee; a few Aramaic words and phrases are in the New Testament: *abba, Kephas, talitha, Eli*, etc.).

Jesus re-interpreted Judaism. He changed the meaning of King, Kingdom, victory, enemy, People of God, covenant, Temple, Holy Land, etc., and his followers eventually added 27 new books to their collection of Scriptures. **Jesus said** that the "**Old**" **Covenant** (the covenant God made with the *Jews*) has been superseded by the "**New**" **Covenant**. Jews do not think that their covenant is "old" nor do they like the Gentile followers of Jesus taking over the Jewish scriptures and giving them a radically different *interpretation*.

- **Christians** *must* affirm the validity of **pre-Christian Judaism**.
- **Christians** *necessarily* disagree with the rejection of Jesus by the *some* of the **Jews** of his day; Christianity was originally 100% Jewish. *Some* Jews accepted and preached Him as "the Christ."
- To be a **Christian** is to **see** (*interpret or re-interpret*) **Judaism** through **Jesus'** eyes.

Mohammed re-interpreted both Judaism and Christianity. He created his own sacred history (the **Koran**, which means "recitation"--he claimed that he just "recited" what God told him through the angel Gabriel), drawing heavily on Jewish and Christian scriptures. He saw himself as "**the Seal of the Prophets**"--the last and definitive prophet in the series begun by the Jewish prophets and continued through Jesus. He denied the divinity of Jesus, the saving value of Jesus' death, and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead but (*strangely!*) honored Jesus as a prophet born from a virgin mother.

Muslims and **Jews** consider Christians *blasphemers* on the theory that no human being could be God. Both are **unitarian monotheists**: there is only one person in the one God. **Trinitarian** Christians teach that God, the Son, became truly human without ceasing to be truly God. For them, **Jesus is THE Christ** (King of the Jews).

Christians believe that God, the Son, became human, revealed the Father and the Spirit to the world, and worked our salvation by dying and rising from the dead. From the Christian standpoint, the rejection of Jesus' divinity by Jews and Muslims is a tragedy.

Muslims believe that the authentic line of the covenant with Abraham descends to the Arabs and to Mohammed through **Ishmael**, the first-born son. Both the book of Genesis (sacred to Jews and Christians) and the Koran agree on the basic story of Abraham's two sons. Muslims hold that it was **Ishmael**, not Isaac, whom Abraham surrendered to God. They believe that Abraham built the Kaaba in Mecca for Ishmael and worshiped God there with him.

Judaism is the unwilling parent of both Christianity and Islam. The three **western religions** are all derived from "**the God of Abraham**." In that sense, we have "the same God." But we passionately disagree with each other about how God's self-revelation is to be interpreted. Christianity sees itself as the **development** and **fulfillment** of God's **covenant** with Abraham. Judaism sees Christianity as a **corruption** of Judaism. Islam sees itself as the **reform, development, and fulfillment** of Judaism and Christianity. Both Jews and Christians see Islam as a **corruption** of their traditions.

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are the **Western Religions**, a.k.a. the **Abrahamic Religions**.