

# TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY ANTISEMITISM AND ITS ORIGINS



SLLL -- Senior Scholars

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# Theological Angle: Christianity



# Mystery Religions

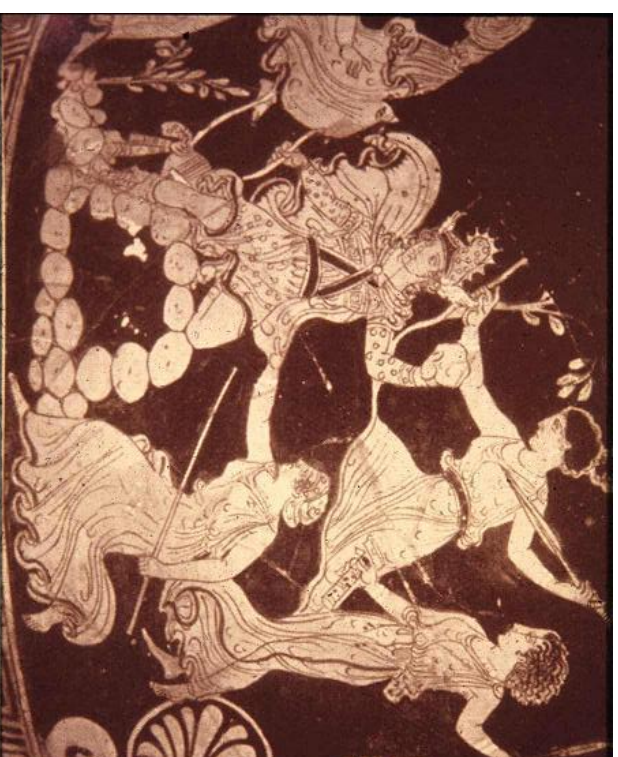
USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH “ASIATIC” RELIGIONS:

- Egyptian Isis (Egyptian)
- Mithras (Persian)
- Sabazius (Thracian/Phrygian)
- Cybele (Phrygian).
- Yahu (?) (Judean)

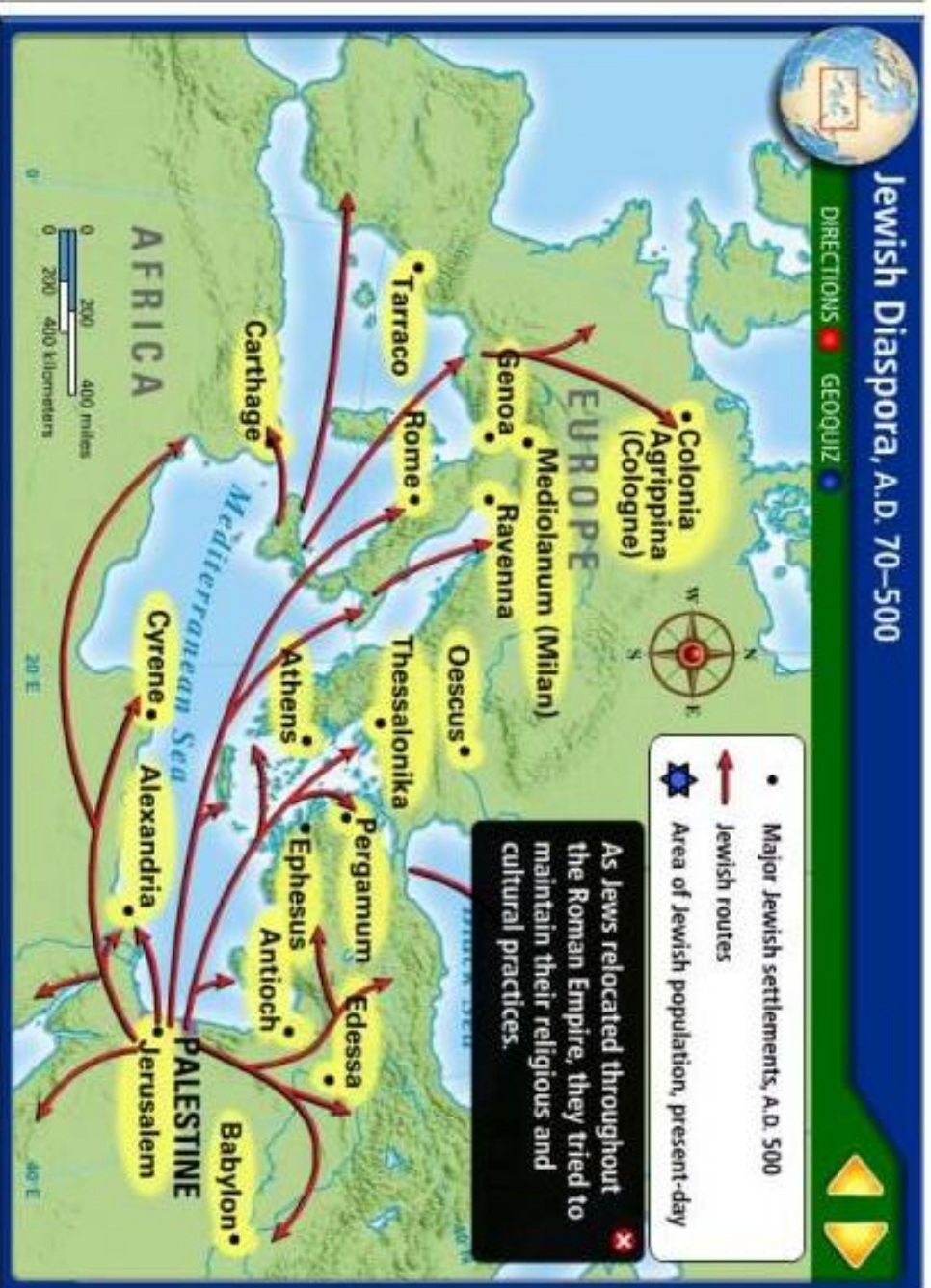
BUT ALSO INCLUDES AT TIMES GRECO-ROMAN

DEITIES:

- Eleusinian Mysteries
- Dionysian Mysteries
- Orphic Mysteries.



# Judeans/Judaizers (Sebomanoi) in the Roman Empire



Romans Were Not Happy with Judeans...



# Today's Problematic: For the Earliest Church

- When and how and why is a Christian not a Jew?
- Is it possible to be a Christian Jew or a Jewish Christian? What would those even be?
- Can a Gentile be a Christian while denying Jewish Scripture?
- Are early Christians really Seboomenoi?



## Gospels (Matthew 23:25-32)

- 27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.
- 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.
- 29 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous.
- 30 And you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’
- 31 So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!



## Gospels (Matthew 27:24-25)

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

25And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

26Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

## Gospels (Luke 19:41-44)

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

# Excursus: Gnosticism

Essence/Spirit/Ideal (soul)

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Material/Physical (body)

- Gnosis = “knowledge”
- Demiurge = “creator” deity



# Gnosticism Widespread in Mystery Religions

These local and imported religions from the east had secret rituals that promised direct connection/revelation to divine.

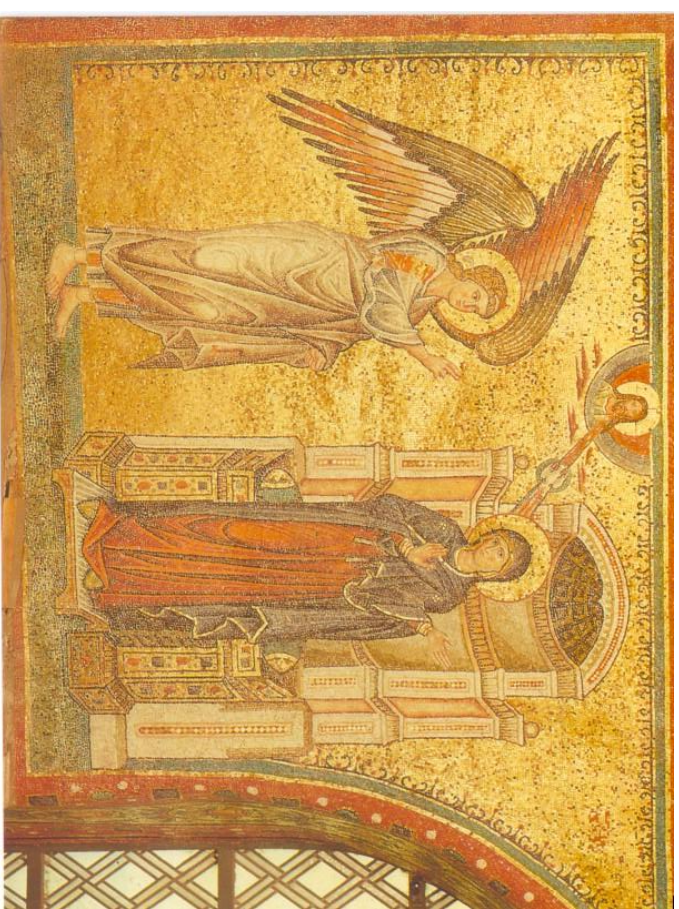
Mithras (Persian)	Dionysius (Greek)	Cybele (Asia Minor)
Men-only, popular with soldiers	God of wine/revelry	Goddess-centered, religio licita (200 BC)
Rival to Christianity in church age (Rome)	"new age", soul is trapped in man's body	Sacred prostitution, bizarre ecstasy (sounds/instrument)
Mithraism seemed to borrow from Christianity (baptism, communion)	Ritual drunken revelry channel spirit of divine, prophetic insights	Influence in the Corinthian church? (prostitution, tongue-speaking)
	Ephesians 5:18?	1 Corinthians 6, 13?

## Marcion (85-160 CE)

Declared that the Jewish God was a malevolent deity, creator of the physical world.

Jesus was a messenger from the good spiritual Deity, sent to have us reborn in the spiritual realm of the True God and so to save our souls.

Therefore rejected the Jewish scriptures as the product of a lesser (evil) deity



# St. Ignatius of Antioch (98-117 A.D.)

- For if we are still practicing Judaism, we admit that we have not received God's favor...it is wrong to talk about Jesus Christ and live like Jews. For Christianity did not believe in Judaism, but Judaism in Christianity. (*Letter to the Magnesians*)
- If anyone should interpret Judaism to you, do not listen to him. For it is better to hear Christianity from a man who is circumcised than Judaism from one who is uncircumcised. But if neither one speaks about Jesus Christ, they both appear to me a monuments and tombs of the dead... (*Letter to the Philadelphians*)



## St. Justin Martyr — *Dialogue with Trypho* (138–161 CE.)

- We too, would observe your circumcision of the flesh, your Sabbath days, and in a word, all you festivals, if we were not aware of the reason why they were imposed upon you, namely, because of your sins and the hardness of heart. The custom of circumcising the flesh, handed down from Abraham, was given to you as a distinguishing mark, to set you off from other nations and from us Christians.
- The purpose of this was that you and only you might suffer the afflictions that are now justly yours; that only your land be desolated, and your cities ruined by fire, that the fruits of your land be eaten by strangers before your very eyes; that not one of you be permitted to enter your city of Jerusalem. Your circumcision of the flesh is the only mark by which you can certainly be distinguished from other men...
- as I stated before it was by reason of your sins and the sins of your fathers that, among other precepts, God imposed upon you the observance of the sabbath as a mark.

# Constantine's "Conversion" to Christianity

- His "conversion" came in 312 after the Battle of the Malvian Bridge. He did not actually become a Christian, but recognized Christianity as a licit religion. Persecutions of Christians came to a halt
- The cross appeared on Constantine's coins beginning in 314 along with Sol Invictus. He raised his children as Christians and had Christian clergy as personal advisors, but retained the title *pontifex maximus*, the chief priest of the state cult, until his death.



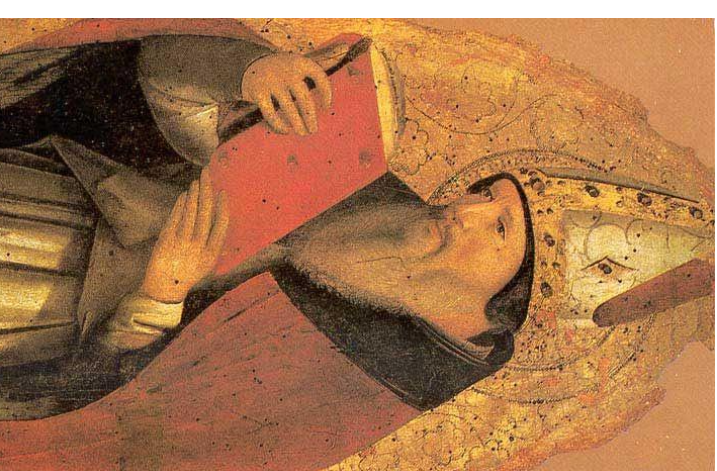


## John Chrysostom (349-407), *Against the Jews: Homily 1*

- Ill Many, I know, respect the Jews and think that their present way of life is a venerable one. This is why I hasten to uproot and tear out this deadly opinion. I said that the synagogue is no better than a theater and I bring forward a prophet as my witness. Surely the Jews are not more deserving of belief than their prophets. "You had a harlot's brow; you became shameless before all". Where a harlot has set herself up, that place is a brothel. But the synagogue is not only a brothel and a theater; it also is a den of robbers and a lodging for wild beasts. Jeremiah said: "Your house has become for me the den of a hyena". He does not simply say "of wild beast", but "of a filthy wild beast", and again: "I have abandoned my house, I have cast off my inheritance". But when God forsakes a people, what hope of salvation is left? When God forsakes a place, that place becomes the dwelling of demons.
- (2) But at any rate the Jews say that they, too, adore God. God forbid that I say that. No Jew adores God! Who say so? The Son of God say so. For he said: "If you were to know my Father, you would also know me. But you neither know me nor do you know my Father". Could I produce a witness more trustworthy than the Son of God?
- (3) If, then, the Jews fail to know the Father, if they crucified the Son, if they thrust off the help of the Spirit, who should not make bold to declare plainly that the synagogue is a dwelling of demons? God is not worshipped there. Heaven forbid! From now on it remains a place of idolatry. But still some people pay it honor as a holy place.

# St. Augustine (c. 354-430 A.D.),

- The ambiguity of metaphorical words... demand extraordinary care and diligence. What the Apostle says pertains to this problem. “For the letter kills, but the spirit enlivens.” That is, when that which is said figuratively is taken as though it were literal, it is understood carnally. Nor can anything more appropriately be called the death of the soul than that condition in which the thing that distinguishes man from beasts, which is the understanding, is subjected to the flesh in pursuit of the letter. [*On Christian Doctrine*]
- How hateful to me are the enemies of your Scripture! How I wish that you would slay them (the Jews) with your two-edged sword, so that there should be none to oppose your word! Gladly would I have them die to themselves and live to you! [*Confessions*, 12.14]



# On the Other Hand

Pope St. Gregory the Great (. 540 –604)

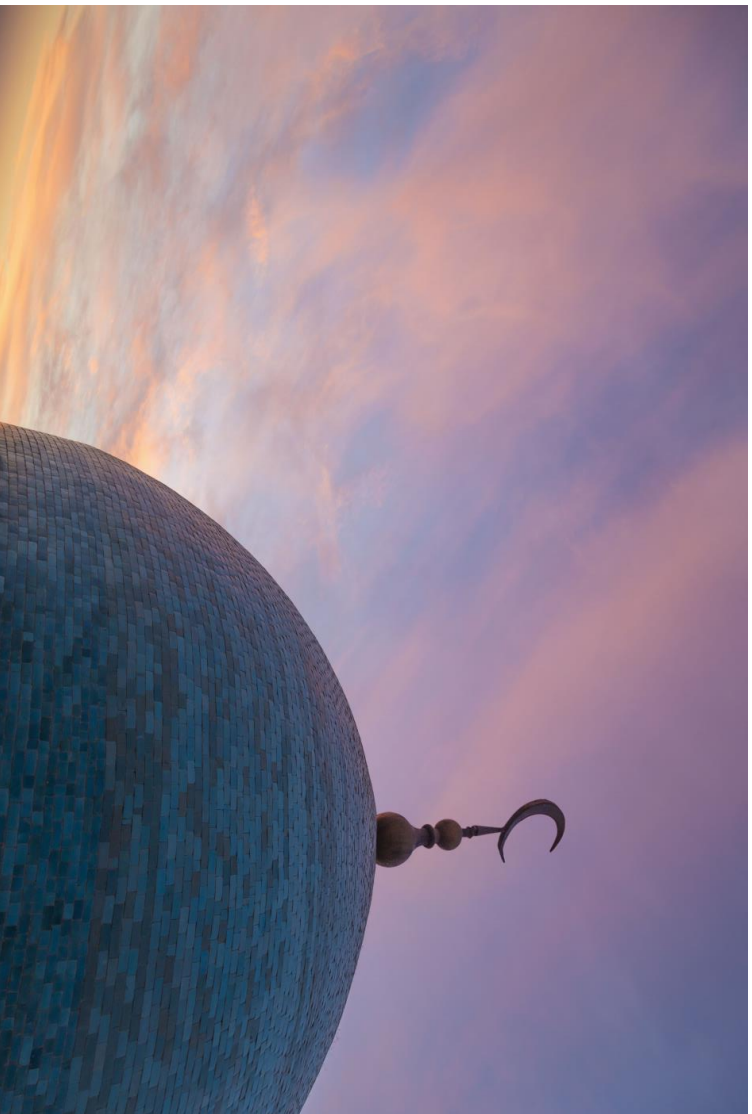
For it is necessary to gather those who are at odds with the Christian religion the unity of faith by meekness, by kindness, by admonishing, by persuading, lest these... should be repelled by threats and terrors. They ought, therefore, to come together to hear from you the Word of God in a kindly frame of mind, rather than stricken with dread, result of a harshness that goes beyond due limits.



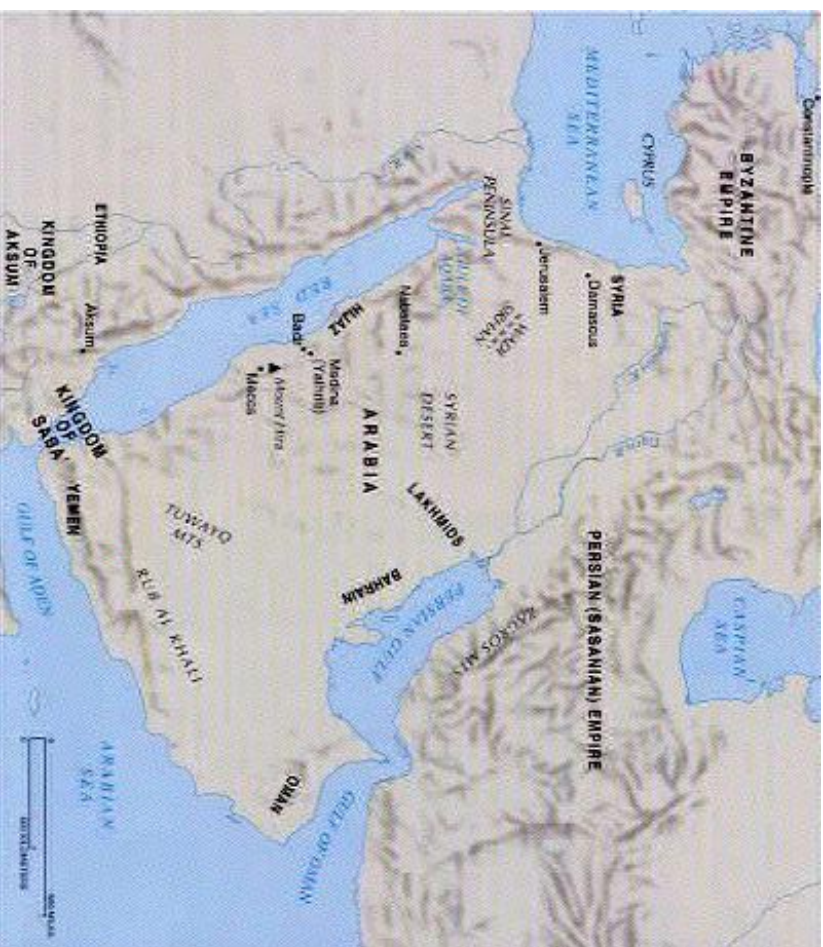
Let's take a Break



# Theological Angle: Islam



# Birth of Islam



Arabian Peninsula

# Camel Market in Ancient Mecca



5. *A camel market on the outskirts of Cairo*

Reenactment

# Jahiliyyah

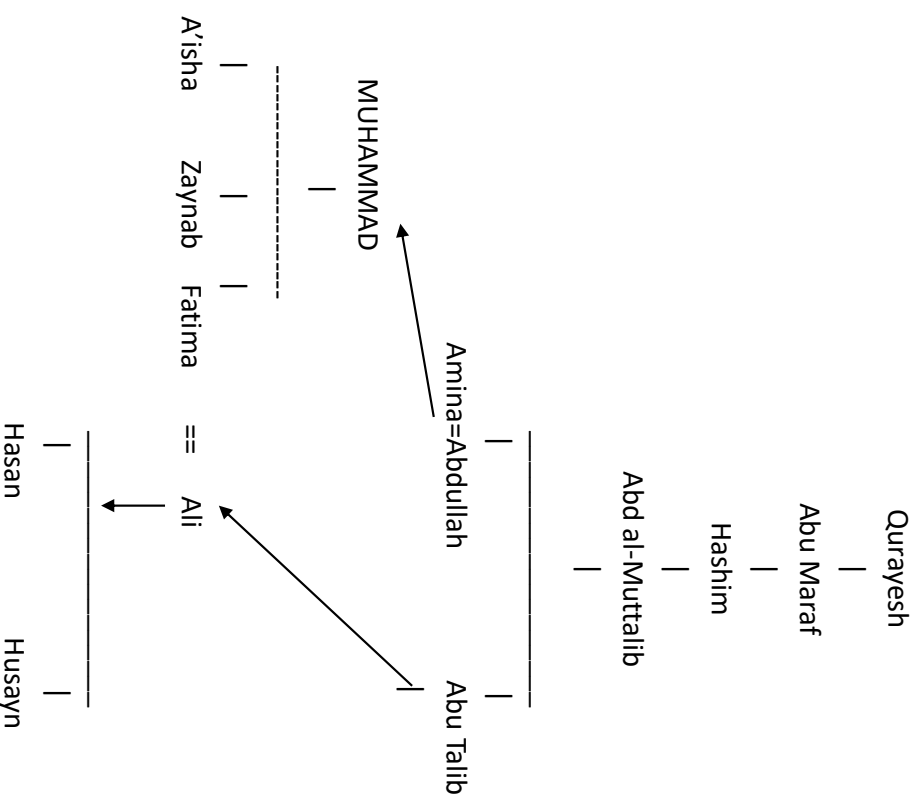


**Jahiliyyah** is an Islamic concept of "ignorance of divine guidance" or "the state of ignorance of the guidance from God" or "Days of Ignorance" referring to the barbaric condition in which Arabs found themselves in pre-Islamic Arabia.

—from Wikipedia



# Geneology of Muhammad



## Angel Jibril (Gabriel) appears everywhere



[96:1] Read (Iqra'), in the name of your Lord, who created. [96:2] He created man from an embryo. [96:3] Read, and your Lord, Most Exalted. [96:4] Teaches by means of the pen. [96:5] He teaches man what he never knew.

# The “Night Journey”



From “the Farthest” (al-Aqsa) Mosque

# Muhammad Leads Interreligious Prayer in Heaven



# Islam Recognizes Many Prophets and Messengers

- Adam
- Enoch
- Noah
- Eber
- Lot
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Ishmael
- Jacob
- Joseph
- Jethro
- Moses
- Aaron
- Elijah
- David
- Solomon
- Ezekiel
- Job
- Jonah
- Zechariah
- John
- Jesus
- Muhammad

## Mohammad and Abu Bakr flee to Yathrib (Medina)



The flight (Hejira) begins the Muslim Calendar

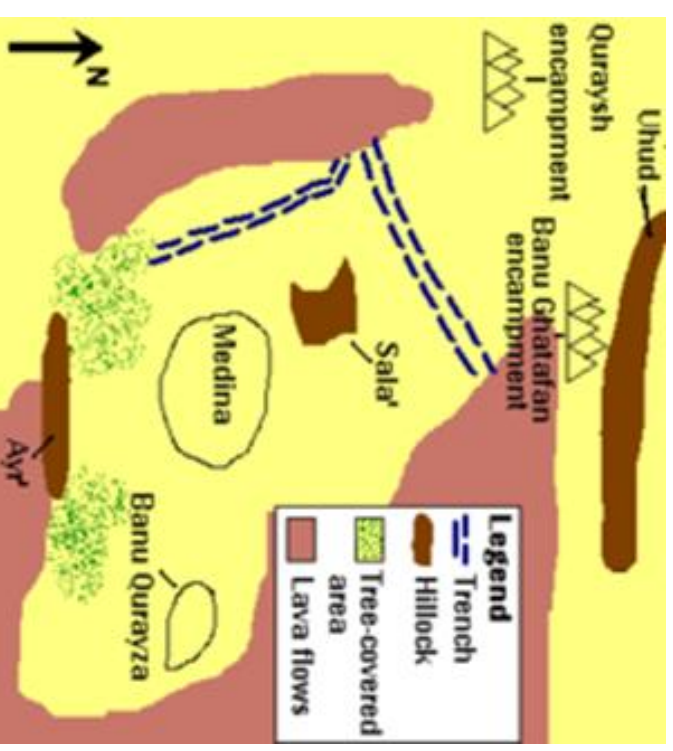
# The Battles of the Early Muslims



- **Battle of Badr** – first serious military confrontation of the Muslims (muhajjirun and ansar). It grew out of a Muslim attempt to ambush a Qurayshi caravan. Although the caravan escaped harm, the Qurayshi merchants sent out an army to defeat Muhammad and his force. The failure of the Meccans to defeat the Muslims enhanced Muhammad's leadership
- **Battle of Uhud** --The Quraysh of Mecca assembled an army of 3,000 and marched to Medina to avenge their defeat at Badr. In the early stage the battle went in favor of the Muslims, but eventually the Quraysh came to have the upper hand. It was at this stage that Ali took command and prevented the Quraysh from taking advantage of their victory. The battle concluded as a draw.

# Battle of the Trench and the Break with Judaism

- Sparked by an alliance between the Meccans and a Jewish tribe in Medina (the Banu Qurayza).
- The Muslims built a trench to blunt the attack. The attackers could only pass the trench at one point, where they ended up in limited man-to-man fights.
- After about 2 weeks the moral of the attacking forces was virtually gone, and then a violent wind with torrents of rain lasting for 3 days destroyed what was left. T
- The siege was lifted, the attackers returned home. Muhammad then turned on the Banu Qurayza and had all members of the tribe executed.





## Four Righteous Imams (*Rashidun*)

- Abu Bakr (632-634) – one of oldest converts. Selected as successor (*Caliph*) by veteran Muslims.
- Umar (634-644) – nominated by Abu Bakr. Assassinated by a Persian soldier.
- Uthman (644-656) – elected by council named by Umar. Compiled the Quran. Killed during a rebellion.
- Ali (656-661) – son-in-law and cousin of Muhammad, proclaimed leader by the people

# Quran I: Jews as People of the Book

[2.40] O children of Israe! call to mind My favor which I bestowed on you and be faithful to (your) covenant with Me, I will fulfill (My) covenant with you; and of Me, Me alone, should you be afraid.

[2.47] O children of Israe! call to mind My favor which I bestowed on you and that I made you excel the nations.

[2.62] Surely those who believe, and those who are Jews, and the Christians, and the Sabians, whoever believes in Allah and the Last day and does good, they shall have their reward from their Lord, and there is no fear for them, nor shall they grieve.

# Quran II: Not all Jews are bad

## Quran Chapter 3

- 113. They are not alike. Among the People of the Scripture is a community that is upright; they recite God's revelations throughout the night, and they prostrate themselves.
- 114. They believe in God and the Last Day, and advocate righteousness and forbid evil, and are quick to do good deeds. These are among the righteous.
- 115. Whatever good they do, they will not be denied it. God knows the righteous.
- 116. As for those who disbelieve, neither their possessions nor their children will avail them anything against God. These are the inhabitants of the Fire, abiding therein forever.

# Quran III

- [4: 153] The People of the Book ask thee to bring down to them a Book from heaven; but they demanded from Moses an even greater thing, for they said, "Show us Allah outright". And a lightning bolt struck them on account of the calf, after clear signs had come to them, but We pardoned this and gave Moses clear authority.
- [4:154] And We lifted the mountain above them at their covenant. And we said to them: Enter the door while bowing. And We said to them: Do not violate the Sabbath; taking from them a firm pledge.
- [4:155] Then for their breaking of the covenant and their disbelief in the messages of Allah and their killing the prophets wrongfully and their saying "Our hearts are covered", Allah has sealed them owing to their disbelief, as only a few believed.
- [4:156] And for their disbelief and from their uttering against Mary a grievous Calumny.
- [4:160-161] So for their iniquity of the Jews, We forbade them certain good foods which had been made lawful for them, and for their hindering many from Allah's way, and for their taking usury even though they were forbidden to do so and for their devouring the property of people falsely, we have prepared for the disbelievers among them a painful chastisement.

# Quran IV: But some Jews are Traitors

- [2.120] And the Jews will not be pleased with you, nor the Christians until you follow their religion. Say: Surely Allah's guidance, that is the (true) guidance. And if you follow their desires after the knowledge that has come to you, you shall have no guardian from Allah, nor any helper.
- [5.13] But on account of their breaking their covenant **We cursed them** and made their hearts hard; they altered the words from their places and they neglected a portion of what they were reminded of; and **you shall always discover treachery in them excepting a few of them**; so pardon them and turn away; surely Allah loves those who do good (to others).
- [5.33] **The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His apostle and strive to make mischief in the land is only this, that they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned**; this shall be as a disgrace for them in this world, and in the hereafter they shall have a grievous chastisement,
- [5:70] **We had already taken the covenant of the Children of Israel and had sent to them messengers. Whenever there came to them a messenger with what their souls did not desire, a party [of messengers] they denied, and another party they killed.**

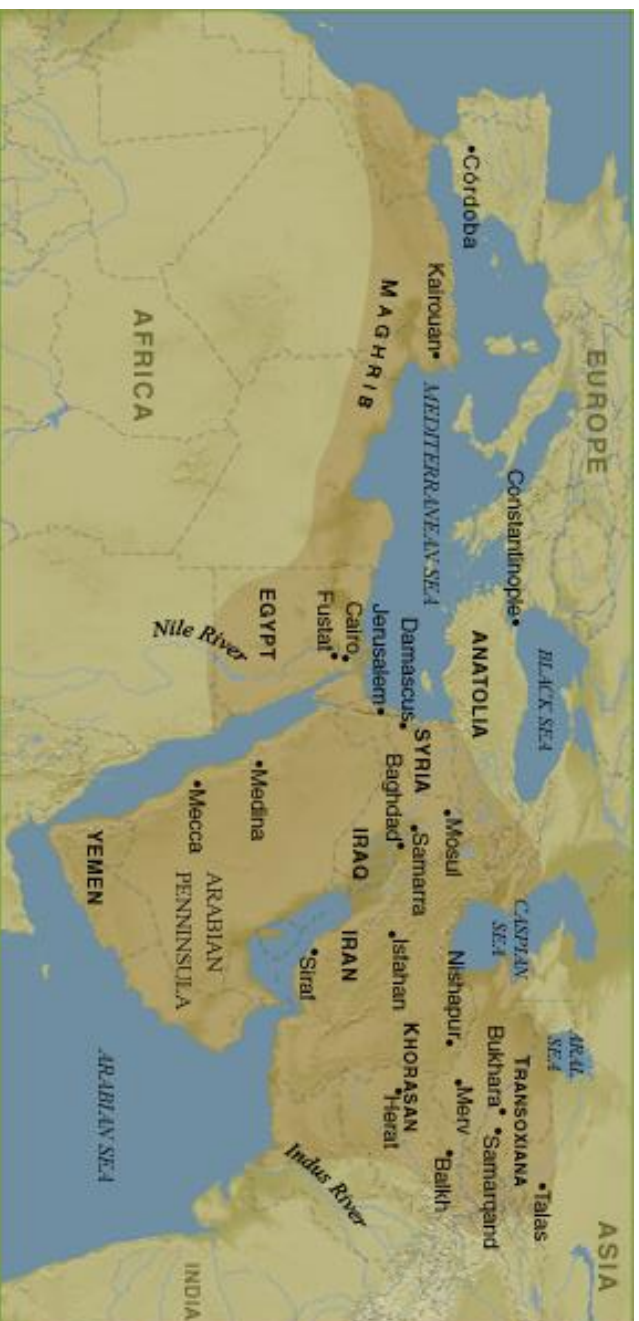


# Pact of Umar (7th Century)

In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate: This is a letter to the servant of God Umar [Ibn al-Khattab], Commander of the Faithful, from the Christians of such-and-such a city. When you came against us, we asked you for safe-conduct (aman) for ourselves, our descendants, our property, and the people of our community, and we undertook the following obligations toward you:

- We shall not build, in our cities or in their neighborhood, new monasteries, Churches, convents, or monks' cells, nor shall we repair, by day or by night, such of them as fall in ruins or are situated in the quarters of the Muslims.
- We shall keep our gates wide open for passersby and travelers. We shall give board and lodging to all Muslims who pass our way for three days.
- We shall not give shelter in our churches or in our dwellings to any spy, nor bide him from the Muslims.
- We shall not teach the Qur'an to our children.
- We shall not manifest our religion publicly nor convert anyone to it. We shall not prevent any of our kin from entering Islam if they wish it.
- We shall show respect toward the Muslims, and we shall rise from our seats when they wish to sit.
- We shall not seek to resemble the Muslims by imitating any of their garments, the galansuwa, the turban, footwear, or the parting of the hair. We shall not speak as they do, nor shall we adopt their kunyas.
- We shall not mount on saddles, nor shall we gird swords nor bear any kind of arms nor carry them on our persons.
- We shall not engrave Arabic inscriptions on our seals.
- We shall not sell fermented drinks.
- We shall clip the fronts of our heads.
- We shall always dress in the same way wherever we may be, and we shall bind the zunar round our waists
- We shall not display our crosses or our books in the roads or markets of the Muslims. We shall use only clappers in our churches very softly.
- We shall not raise our voices when following our dead. We shall not show lights on any of the roads of the Muslims or in their markets. We shall not bury our dead near the Muslims.
- We shall not take slaves who have been allotted to Muslims.
- We shall not build houses overtopping the houses of the Muslims.

# Abbasids (750 -1258)



The extent of the Abbasid Empire



# “People of the Book”

- In Quran and earliest Islam, the phrase referred to Jews, Christians and Sabians, that is other already existing monotheistic groups. It was understood that they already lived under a moral and religious code revealed by God.

- As the Muslim empire expanded, it was sometimes applied to other religious groups, even polytheistic Hindus.
- These religious groups had an intermediary status – less than full Muslims but above pagans and unbelievers.

## “People of the Book”

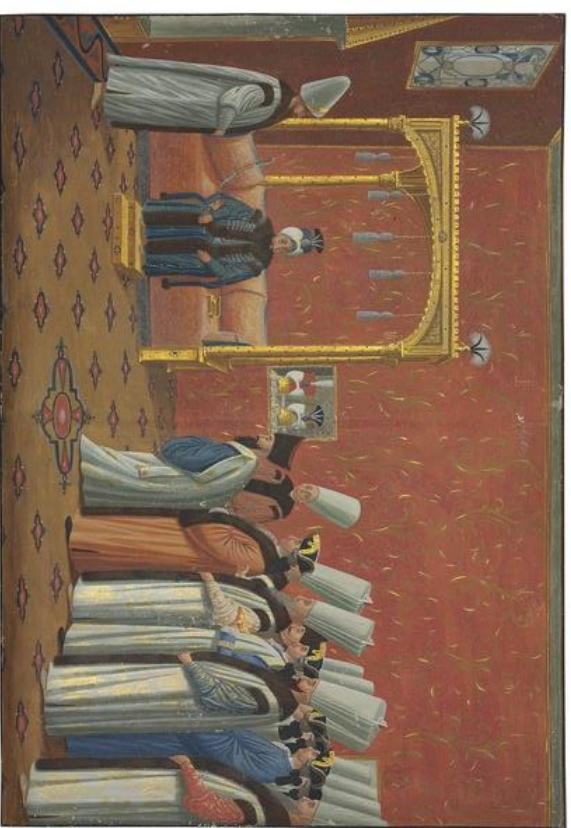
- Jews, Christians, Muslims
- Same God
- All three recognize that God spoke to Abraham and Moses.
- Jews- still waiting for Messiah
- Christians- Jesus was Messiah
- Muslims- Jesus is just a prophet-greatest prophet is Muhammad



# Dhimmi status

The term refers to non-Muslims living in an Islamic state with legal protection. The word literally means "protected person", referring to the state's obligation under sharia to protect the individual's life, property, and freedom of religion, in exchange for loyalty to the state and payment of the jizya tax, which complemented the zakat, or obligatory alms, paid by the Muslim subjects. Dhimmis were exempt from certain duties assigned specifically to Muslims, and did not enjoy certain privileges and freedoms reserved for Muslims, but were otherwise equal under the laws of property, contract, and obligation.

--*Wikipedia*



Ottoman Millet System: Jews (and Christians, and others) were treated as semi-autonomous religious communities.

# Next Week: The Medieval World

