**Introduction**

* Judaism is the oldest of the 3 monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam
* Unlike Islam, its origins are divine. Like Islam, those who follow it today disregard God’s will in the matter. *(see conclusion)*
* The establishment of the Jewish religion was a part of God’s scheme of redemption, formed before the world began. *(cf. Hebrews 1:1-4)*

**Origins**

* God’s threefold promise to Abraham, the patriarch of the Jewish *people (Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 13:14-17)* [Land, Nation, Messianic]
* Through Abraham’s lineage (Isaac, Jacob, Jacob’s sons), the nation of Israel came forth*. (Genesis 17:19; 28:1-4; 35:22-26; 49:1-28)*
* The nation was formed while in Egypt *(46:1-27; Exodus 1:7)*
* Amidst persecution, Moses led Israel out of Egypt *(Exodus 5-15)*
* God established his Law with Israel as they were in the wilderness at Mt. Sinai *(Exodus 19-31)*
* Israel finally inhabits the promised Land of Canaan *(Joshua 1:1-9; 3:14-17)*
* Note: In the fullness of time, God sent His Son Jesus, the seed of Abraham, of David, as the Savior of mankind *(cf. Matthew 1)*

**Nature**

* Judaism initially was a monotheistic Theocracy
* The Law governed both the religion and civil requirements of the Jews
  + **Religious** – *(cf. Exodus 20:1-17)* Ten Commandments – Spiritual/Moral; sacrifices; worship; tabernacle; temple
  + **Civil** – *(Leviticus)* Dietary, disease prevention, taxation, crime, land & possessions, civil disputes, debt, punishment, census
* Pagan idolatry a common practice of national Israel throughout her history *(Numbers 25:1-3)*
* During Jesus’ time on earth, still a Theocracy, but subjugated to Roman rule.
* Modern Judaism no longer a Theocracy. Jewish state of Israel a democracy. Best description – ethnoreligious group, consisting of Jews, and converts to the religion. (14 Million – 42% in Israel, 42% in North America).

**Religious Characteristics**  
(Ancient, New Testament, Modern)

* **A:** Mosaic Law *(Exodus 19-31; Leviticus)*; Priestly worship *(Exodus 28-29; Leviticus 9)*; Sacrifices and *Offerings (Exodus 29:38-46; 30; Leviticus 1-8)*; Feast Days *(cf. Numbers 28-29, esp. 29:39)*; First, tabernacle worship *(Exodus 25-30)*; Later, temple worship (Solomon, *1 Kings 6-9*); Note – Solomon’s temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar *(2 Kings 24)*; The temple was rebuilt by the remnant that returned from Babylonian captivity *(Ezra 6:12-18)*
* **NT:** Mosaic law, and Rabbinic traditions *(Mark 7:1-13)*; Perversions of sacrificial worship *(Matthew 21:12-13)*; Synagogues *(Matthew 4:23)*; Sects: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes. **Note:** Christianity at first considered a sect of the Jews; The Jews persecuted Christians in the first century *(Acts 8:1-3)*
* **M:** Jews a persecuted people in modern times (Muslims, Nazi’s). Established the modern Jewish state of Israel in 1948. Israeli Jews self-identify as: 55% traditional, 20% secular, 17% Religious Zionists; 8% Haredi.  
    
  **In America** 22% of Jews claim no religion. Intermarriage rates are on the rise, further diluting the religious convictions. (32% of millennials identify as Jews only ethnically and culturally). Interestingly, Messianic Jews (those who believe Jesus Christ to be the Messiah) are considered both by Jews and Christians to be religiously Christian. It seems that those Jews who actively look for an as yet unrealized Messianic promise is statistically insignificant.

**Conclusion:**

* Judaism is from God, and fulfilled its purpose in preparing the world for the Messiah. Now that Jesus has come, God no longer considers it a legitimate religion to observe. *(cf. John 4:21-26; Galatians 3:7-29; Hebrews 8)*