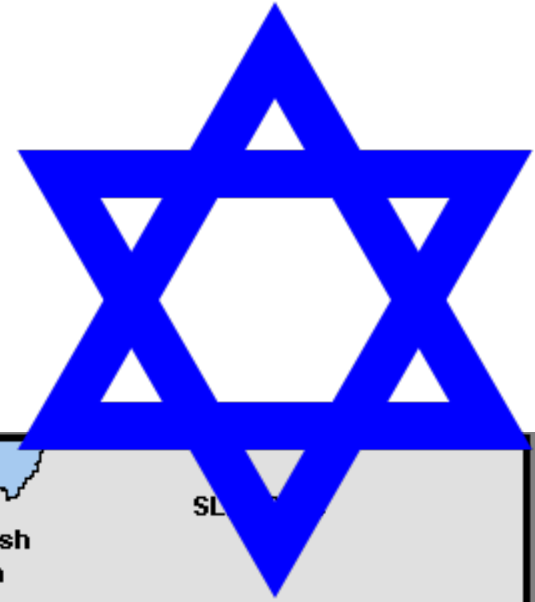


Religious Foundations of Democracy

- A. Judaism
- B. Christianity
- C. Islam



A. Judaism



- Judaism is a Monotheistic (one god) religion
- We know it as the Jewish religion
- Religion began with the Hebrews
- Did not believe in a democracy, but contributed ideas



- Contributed to our idea of democracy by teaching the worth of the individual
 - Every person counts
 - Your decisions effect others
- Worth of the individual was based on their morals –
 - knowing right from wrong
- Believed that people are capable of living to a high moral standard – doing what is right



Had a written law code:

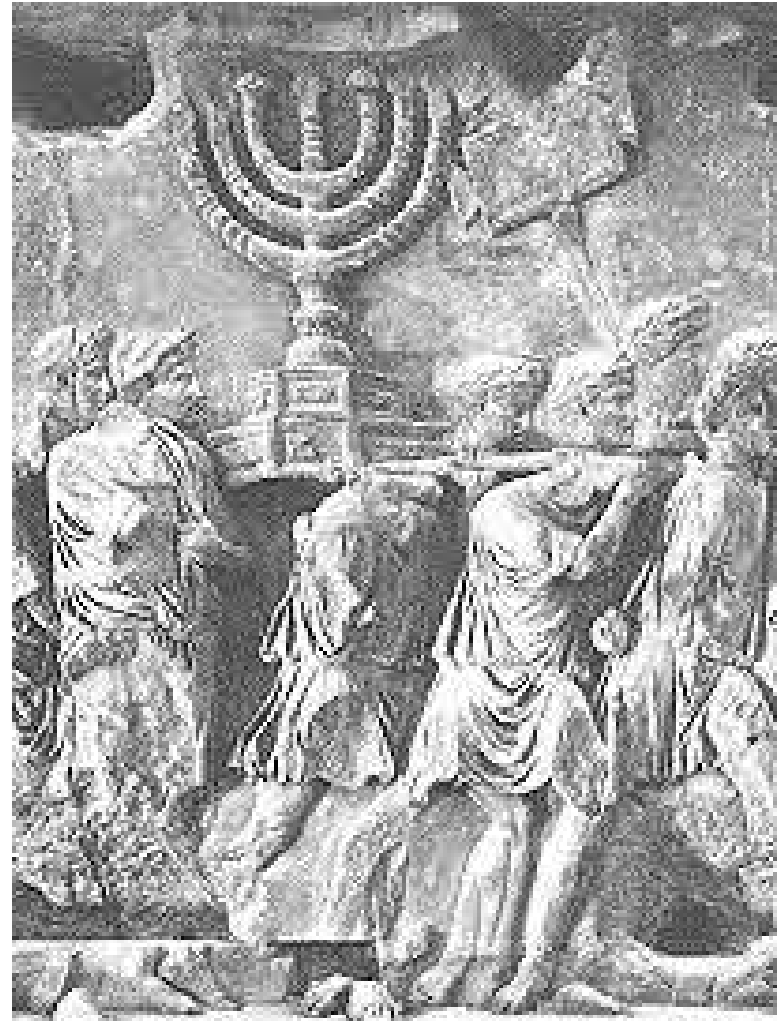
Ten Commandments

1. Laws that were written down
2. Applied to everyone
3. Based on morality or ethics (good v. evil)
4. Different from Greco-Roman laws which focused on politics



To follow these moral laws:

1. Each person is responsible for opposing injustice
2. The community should assist (help) the unfortunate
3. Religion should play a role in politics



B. Christianity

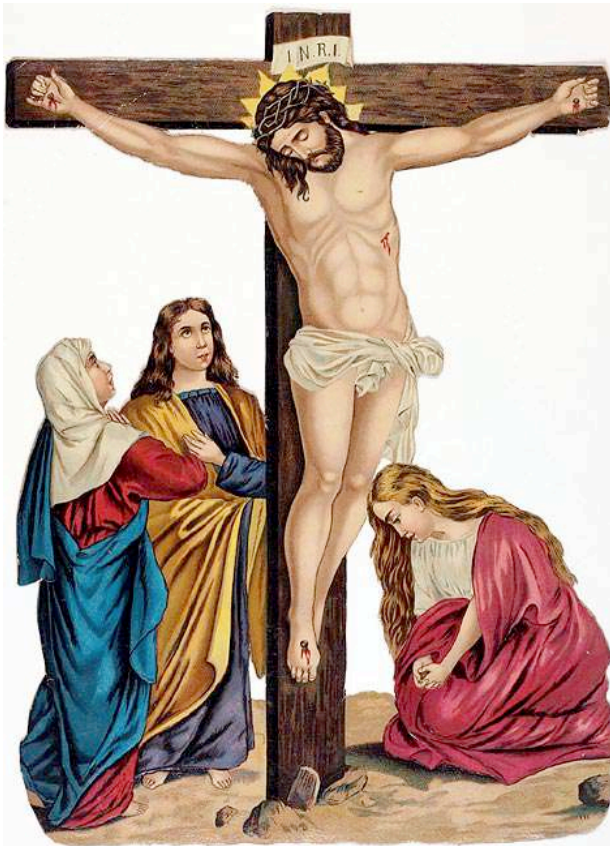
- Religion that was based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth
- His followers formed a religion based on his beliefs called Christianity
- This is also a monotheistic religion



- His beliefs/teachings were:
 - Morality: knowing and doing what is right not wrong
 - Love for ALL
 - Equality for ALL



- The idea of equality became a central belief of democracy
- Jesus was seen as a threat to the Roman government and was executed



- The ideas of the two monotheistic religions spread and had a great influence on democracy

C. Islam

- Began in 600 AD
- Based on the teachings of the prophet Muhammad
- Monotheistic religion
- Emphasized the dignity of all human beings and the brotherhood of all people
- Rulers must obey the same laws as those they ruled

Legacy of the Judeo-Christian/Islamic Beliefs

1. Duty of the individual and society to help the oppressed
2. The worth of the individual
3. The equality of people before God



Quiz

- 1. What are the three religions that have a foundation in democracy?
- 2. What do all three religions have in common?
- 3. How do all three contribute to democracy?