

<p>How did Christianity begin?</p>	<p>In Israel, during the time of the second Beis Hamikdash, Jesus began to preach in Yerushaliam. Because the Romans were persecuting the Jews so harshly, they believed Moshiach must be coming to save them, and Jesus spread this belief. He developed a following by preaching in shuls, especially with his “golden rule,” a positive version of Hillel's “What you do not like, do not do unto others”, and by criticizing the corrupt kehunah. The people Jesus influenced were mostly uneducated. He told them that they didn't need to be strict about purity and impurity, and even went against halacha, telling them that their feelings and motivations were more important than the rules. Jews were also influenced by the Essences, as well as John the Baptist, who preached teshuvah.</p>															
<p>What did the other Jews and Romans do?</p>	<p>The Pherushim saw him as a rebel and ostracized Jesus, but he was still a Jew. The Tzidukim, fed up with criticism, took him to Rome. The Roman authorities saw him as a potential rebel, so they tried and crucified him.</p>															
<p>How was it spread?</p>	<p>According to rumor, Jesus had been resurrected and instructed his followers to spread his teachings. They were still mostly consistent with Judaism. A break came with Peter and Simon, who were at first halacha-following Jews but believed Jesus was Messiah. Later, Paul, a Jew, had a “revelation” that Jesus wanted him to spread his teachings and that those who accepted Jesus would achieve eternal life—salvation. He was rejected by Jews, though, so he began to preach to pagans. They were attracted by the morality as well as the by the easy way to achieve eternal life. After Constantine, Theodosias, the Roman emperor, converted to Christianity, and made it the religion of Rome. Over time, the Church grew smaller as barbarians invaded, but they eventually converted, and the Church grew and developed a hierarchy system after the Dark Ages.</p>															
<p>How did Jewish communities begin in Western Europe?</p>	<p>Jews had been in Europe since the destruction of the Second Beis Hamikdash. At the end of the era of Tanniam, there was another large dispersal of Jews, and more moved to Europe.</p>															
<p>What were the Dark Ages? 500-1000</p>	<p>Also known as the Early Middle Ages or the Medieval Ages, a time of cultural, educational, political, and economical stagnation; a time of chaos. During the time of/after Constantine, Rome split into the European, Byzantine Empire and the Western Roman Empire. In Western Rome, churches were established and Christianity spread. This was interrupted by invasions by barbaric tribes. Eventually, though, King Clovis, a barbaric invader himself, converted and spread Christianity once again.</p>															
<p>What was life like for Jews?</p>	<p>This was a violent and chaotic period. The Church was often dominant; it was dangerous to practice Judaism openly. In Spain, many adopted Catholicism, some practiced Judaism secretly, and some fled to Muslim countries. In France and Germany, Jews were okay for a time, but persecuted later. In Italy they were better off; the country was relatively independent because it was so far away from the center of the Byzantine empire in Turkey. Jewish support was needed, so Jews were given more freedom. Also in the Dark Ages, though, Gregory I “the Great” forbade the forced conversion of Jews, saying that persuasion was the only way conversions could be accomplished.</p>															
<p>What was the feudal system?</p>	<p>This was developed during the Dark Ages for protection. It functioned in a pyramid:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="310 1732 769 1990"> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Pope/Church</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Nobles</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Vassal</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Knight</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Merchant</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Farmer</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Artisan</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Peasants</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Serfs</td> </tr> </table>	Pope/Church			Nobles			Vassal	Knight		Merchant	Farmer	Artisan	Peasants	Serfs	
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	<p>The serfs were illiterate, superstitious, and thus anti-Semitic. Jews were totally outside the feudal system. They usually couldn't own land or belong to guilds, so they were often merchants or bankers and moneylenders. Moneylending was a good fit for Jews because they had connected communities all over the world and were permitted to do charge interest (Christians were not). However, it created the stereotype of greediness.</p>
<p>What were the Middle Ages? 1000-1500</p>	<p>Also known as the High/Late Middle Ages. During this time, the feudal system grew into the system of monarchies.</p>
<p>What was life like for Jews?</p>	<p>Jewish life was darkened and complicated by a history of prejudices. The New Testament was extremely deprecating towards Jews, portraying them as “snakes” who forced the “innocent” Pontius Pilate to crucify Jesus. They were also jealous of Jews who had education and therefore better jobs and lives. This led to extreme anti-Semitism as well as blood libels and laws to humiliate and punish Jews. Still, the time was much less violent and much less hostile than the Dark Ages. Although the people were virulently anti-Semitic, the secular government was not such. In the 9th century, actually, Louis the Pious granted the Jews of France freedom to trade and travel. Bishop Abrogard spoke out against this, saying that Jews were too powerful and had been accommodated too much. He blamed the court for treating Jews too well.</p>
<p>How was the Jewish community organized?</p>	<p>In מדינות אשכנז—France and Germany—the communities would elect leaders. Their leaders would commune and talk about issues. In this time, communal rules were enforced by excommunication—this was a serious punishment, because, although the communities were self-sufficient, Jews could not survive outside. The biggest communities were in Germany: Speyer, Worms, and Mainz.</p>
<p>Who was Rabbeniu Gershom?</p>	<p>He learned in the Mainz Yeshiva. He was known as “Maor HaGolah”--“the illuminator of exile”. He was known for being a great leader and great in Torah. He contributed important takanos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No opening mail belonging to other people 2. No polygamy 3. No divorce against a woman's will
<p>Who was Rashi?</p>	<p>He was born in Troyes, France to a scholar and winemaker father and perhaps studied under Rabbeniu Gershom in Mainz. When he was 25 he founded a yeshiva in France. He was a communal leader for much of his life. At the end of his life, he became sick; his daughter helped him write responsa. His daughters were scholars and his grandchildren were Tosafits. He is remembered for his commentaries on Tanach and Talmud. The one on Tanach was tersely worded and is important for his use of specific words to then be explained. The one on Talmud was monumental; it made Talmud understandable to the masses and has always been vital.</p>
<p>What were Tosafits?</p>	<p>Students of Rashi. They wrote another commentary on Talmud, one that added to his and explained, adding parallels as well as argument. They included Rashbam, Rabbeniu Tam and R' Meir of Rothenberg.</p>
<p>Who was Rabbeniu Tam?</p>	<p>R' Yaakov ben Meir. He was a grandson of Rashi who worked as a moneylender and cultivated a vineyard; these jobs helped him foster a relationship with the non-Jews that he used for the Jewish community's benefit. he wrote ס' הישר, a commentary on Talmud, and is largely famous for the opinion that havdalah should be 90 minutes after Shabbos started.</p>
<p>Who was R' Meir of Rothenberg?</p>	<p>He studied in Wurtzburg, Mainz, and France, even under Rashi, and was a communal leader in Germany, France, and Italy. When the Jewish situation in Europe had deteriorated, he decided to move to Israel. However, he was arrested by the archbishop of Mainz and arrested and imprisoned by King Rudolph. He didn't let his students or community pay ransom for his release, instead living in jail for the last 7 years of his life. 17 years later, a wealthy man paid for the return of his body. He wrote 1500 responsa, dealing with controversial halachic topics as well as the halachot of</p>

	slaughter, eruvs, brachos, and mourning.
How did the Crusades begin?	In the 11 th century, Christianity became very popular. Many people were new converts, and in such a capacity extremely zealous. This, combined with the idea of chivalry, led to Crusade—holy war against the Muslims for control of the Holy Land. In 1071 the Seljuk Turks had defeated the Byzantine empire and gained control of the area, and the emperor turned to Pope Urban II for help. There were 10 crusades, 3 of them major ones. They were mainly driven by religious motives: protection of the Holy Land and a chance to achieve salvation/forgiveness. However, the economic motives of land and loot as well as the political ones of prestige, power, and titles were definitely an impetus.
What was the first Crusade? 1096	Pope Urban II called for a crusade, suggesting that it begin after the harvest—it was in a time of famine and food was not readily available. The knights and nobles followed his advice, but the common people began immediately. This was known as the “People's Crusade”. They assumed that communities they met along the way would provide for them, and turned to attacking and pillaging when they found that this was not so. Often, they didn't make it to Israel. In Germany, the secular and clergy leaders had allowed the Jews some protection—they would offer a charter to build a wall, thereby attracting more Jews, valuable citizens—and these communities thought they were safe from the Crusaders, so much so that they spent their time davening and fasting on behalf of the Jews of France. However, they were attacked during sefirah by Crusaders who were led by Count Emicho. In total, 5,000 Jews were killed. It was the first instance of large-scale mob violence towards European Jewry. Despite all, though, the Jews did survive and rebuild.
What happened in Speyer?	The Jews had some notice, and hid in their shul. Everyone outside was killed, and some were also when the shul was attacked. One woman died as a martyr instead of converting to Christianity. Bishop John stopped the attack, creating a charter to protect Jews, keeping survivors in his palace, and cutting off the hands of Crusaders.
What happened in Worms?	Because it was close to Speyer, the Jews of Worms had notice of the attack. Their Bishop allowed Jews to hide in his castle; Jews turned to their non-Jewish neighbors for the safekeeping of valuables. However, the townspeople turned against the Jews, helping the Crusaders. The Bishop turned next, only extending his help to those who would convert. 800 were slaughtered in a week as many chose martyrdom or suicide. Children who survived their parents were baptized. One such child, Simcha Cohen, who survived his parents and 7 brothers, pretended to convert and then killed 3 nephews of the Bishop.
What happened in Mainz?	The Jews of Mainz also had warning, and they made a deal with their Archbishop by bribing him with silver. They sent Emicho gold and he promised not to attack, but everyone turned against the Jews. Under the leadership of R' Kolinomos ben Meshulum, they fought back. Some 1,000 were killed and 1,200 committed suicide. A small number converted to Christianity.
What happened in Cologne?	Jews were protected in Christian homes, but the Crusaders destroyed the Jewish quarter of the city.
What was the second Crusade?	The second Crusade was called in 1144 by Pope Eugene III when the Muslims conquered Edessa, a Christian outpost in Israel. It was led by King Louis VII of France and King Conrad III of Germany; they marched and attacked separately. The Crusaders were defeated by the Seljuk Turks. The impact on Jews was negative and destructive but nothing like the first Crusade. Jews were expelled from many communities, but fewer were killed. A monk preached the importance of killing Jews. In response, Abbot Bernard of Clarivux (St. Bernard) said this was un-Christian. He wrote a letter to this effect to the people of the Holy Roman Empire, but that didn't help; neither did an open disputation. When Wurtzburg was attacked and R' Isaac ben Eliakim and 21 others died, Bernard buried them in his personal garden.

	Rabbeniu Tam was also attacked, injured, and stolen from. He wasn't killed, but many others were.
What was the third?	When Saladin recaptured Jerusalem, Henry II of England and Philip II of France settled their disputes and jointed together to Crusade. Henry died and was replaced by Richard the Lionheart; the Holy Roman Emperor Fredrick of Barbarosa joined them but drowned, at which point many of his troops gave up. Richard and Saladin made a peace treaty, allowing Christian pilgrims to safely visit the Muslim controlled Jerusalem (it was broken by the fourth Crusade, six years later).
What happened at York?	Jews had been invited to England by William by Conqueror and had established prestige and power under Henry II. Richard, though, charged the policy, forbidding Jews from entering the palace. This created violent riots that killed about 30 people, including the wealthy Jew Benedict. When Richard was on Crusade, a new archbishop took power. With no leadership, there was much disorder. Christians that were resentful of Jews burned Jewish settlement in York. They broke into Benedict's home, stole from him, and killed his wife. The Jews sought refuge in a castle in York, but it was besieged. Jews outside were killed or forcibly baptized; those inside, under the leadership of R' Yom Tov, committed suicide and set fire to the castle. Survivors, who had begged for mercy and accepted baptism, were ultimately killed. In total over 150 died.
What was the Fourth Lateran Council?	A meeting of Christian leaders. They established several rules, some were against Jews, some regarding radical apocalyptic sects. They limited from going out in public areas during Christian holidays or the time surrounding them. The most rule controversial was that Jews would have to wear clothing distinguishing them as such. The Jews of Castile refused to accept this; it was recanted when they threatened to move to Christian Spain.
What was the Paris Disputation?	A public argument between the apostate Jew Nicholas Donan and R' Yechiel. Donan brought 35 charges against the Talmud, saying that it was rival to the Bible and blasphemous. R' Yechiel defended it, saying that the Jesus of the Talmud was not the same Jesus of Christianity and that when Christianity was discussed it was really paganism. Donan was favored, and thousands of Talmuds and works of halacha were burnt.
How and why were Jews expelled from England?	When Pope Innocent III and King Edward I were in power, many laws were passed against Jews and blood libels were prevalent. They were expelled because of the blood libels and because Jews were a perfect scapegoat for the failing economy.
What happened to Jews during the Black Death?	Plague was brought to Europe by merchants, who carried it from China. It swept across Europe, killing 1/3 of the population in a century. Not many Jews died, and they were blamed for the plague; Christians said they had gotten poison from the devil and poisoned wells. The plague increased anti-Semitism; Jews were moved to ghettos, tried, tortured, and burned at the stake.
How and why were Jews expelled from France?	Jews were expelled from Paris by Philip Augustus and allowed to return if they paid for the privilege and bought their possessions; they were expelled by Louis IX but allowed to return for a fee if they did not charge interest, learn, and wore badges identifying them as Jews. Eventually, they were expelled completely by Charles VI.
How did Christian Spain begin?	With the Reconquista, a 200 year war between the Christians and Muslims over Spain. Muslims were driven into the South. Originally, life was the same for Jews. It changed irregularly, depending on the king and the location.
What was Aragon?	One of the kingdoms in Christian Spain and the home of a large Jewish community. Under James I , skilled Jews were highly involved in government, including the diplomatic elements of the Reconquista. James was pressured into anti-Semitic laws, but they were never enforced. Jews lived in an aljama and were given some degree of autonomy with the power to enact punishment within their own court system. Under James II , the economic and legal privileges of Jews were protected. Pedro IV had a good personal relationship with Jews and gave more autonomy to Jewish

	<p>communities. However, after his time, Jewish communities in Valencia and Barcelona were attacked, 250 and 400 respectively being killed and others baptized. They were not permitted to rebuild, and many moved to Castile. Clergy in Seville also became anti-Semitic. 23 shuls were destroyed. Jews were moved into a ghetto and removed from influence. Many were killed and converted forcibly, after being kidnapped, or by choice. Many moved to Madrid or Toledo.</p>										
<p>What was Castile?</p>	<p>Under Alfonso X, the Christians valued simplicity. They restricted dress for Jews and Christians alike. To limit interactions between Jews and Christians, he limited the jobs Jews could have, forbade Jewish lawyers from representing Christian clients, and did not permit Jews to inherit land from Christians. He supported the aljama, though, and gave the isolated Jewish community a high degree of autonomy including criminal jurisdiction within the Beis Din. Some Jews were aristocrats and government administrators, especially regarding finances and taxes. Later, there was a civil war between stepbrothers Pedro the Cruel and Henry II. Many Jews were massacred during the war; one community was wiped out completely. Henry taxed Jews afterwards. Those who couldn't pay were sold into slavery. Jews were forbidden from acting as royal doctors or from lending money at interest. More enactments were made, over time, to bring Jews down and isolate them. They were forced to grow long hair and beards; they lost the title "Don". However, after some social and economic changes, Jews were returned to a relatively good status.</p>										
<p>Who was Ramban?</p>	<p>R' Moses ben Nachman Gerona. He was born to a noble family of Talmudic scholars. At 16 he mastered the Talmud and its commentaries. He worked as a physician, studied Talmud and kabbalah, and wrote commentaries on Talmud and Tanach. He participated in the Barcelona Disputation and was banished afterwards. He then went to Israel, organizing and helping Jewish communities that had been shattered and scattered since the Crusades. He introduced the Zohar, well known there, to Europe. He died at 75 and was buried in Haifa next to R' Yechiel of Paris.</p>										
<p>What was the Barcelona Disputation? 1263</p>	<p>A public debate between Ramban and the apostate Jew Pablo Christiani before King James I. Three questions were addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the Messiah come yet? 2. Is the Messiah human or divine? 3. Who keeps the true Torah? <table border="1" data-bbox="300 1318 1596 1726"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="300 1318 748 1373">Palo Christiani</th> <th data-bbox="748 1318 1596 1373">Ramban</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="300 1373 748 1461">The Rabbis of the Talmud believed in Christianity.</td> <td data-bbox="748 1373 1596 1461">If they did, they would have converted. Christianity was an established religion by then.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="300 1461 748 1516"></td> <td data-bbox="748 1461 1596 1516">The entire story of Christianity is absurd.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="300 1516 1596 1604"> <p>לא יסור שבט מיהודה עד בא שילה There may not be a King who is not from Yehudah until Moshiach.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="300 1604 748 1726">Since there is no king [from Yehudah] Messiah must have come.</td> <td data-bbox="748 1604 1596 1726">The passuk does not stipulate that there must be a king. If there is a king, he must be from Yehudah.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>James I told Ramban that he "had never heard an incorrect belief argued so well". Christiani was winner. Although Ramban had been granted the freedom to say what he wished at the disputation, when he published his arguments, he was tried, found guilty of blasphemy, excommunicated, and banished.</p>	Palo Christiani	Ramban	The Rabbis of the Talmud believed in Christianity.	If they did, they would have converted. Christianity was an established religion by then.		The entire story of Christianity is absurd.	<p>לא יסור שבט מיהודה עד בא שילה There may not be a King who is not from Yehudah until Moshiach.</p>		Since there is no king [from Yehudah] Messiah must have come.	The passuk does not stipulate that there must be a king. If there is a king, he must be from Yehudah.
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<p>Who was Abravanel?</p>	<p>Don Isaac Abarvanel, a secular and Torah leader. He was born to a wealthy, learned family in Portugal. His father Yehudah was the treasurer to King Alfasi, and Abravanel succeeded him.</p>										

	<p>When a new king, Don Joao II, came to power, his policy of getting rid of previous nobility and administrators caused Abravanel to flee to Toledo, Spain with his wife and two children. His wealth was confiscated by Don Joao. Abravanel took a job in a Jewish banking firm; he found time to pursue learning and write commentaries on Yehoshoua, Shoftim, and Shmuel.</p> <p>King Ferdinand of Spain gave him the job of treasurer. When the Inquisition began, he tried to bribe Ferdinand and Isabella and convince them not to expel the Jews. They were almost convinced until the Inspector General came to them bearing a cross, asking them if they valued money or God. Abravanel fled to Naples. Although Ferdinand and Isabella asked Ferdinand of Naples to expel Italy's Jews, Abravanel was given the position of advisor to the king and served his son King Alfassi as well. When Italy was invaded by the French, Abravanel once again lost his wealth and position. He moved to Venice, where he was the head of state until he died and was buried in Padua.</p>
<p>How and why did the Inquisition begin? 1481</p>	<p>The marriage of Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon united the two kingdoms. The political stability created a good situation for Jews and they participated in government. However, at this time, nearly 6,000,000 Jews converted to Christianity. This created the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspicion at the truth of conversion • Jealousy at the economic success of converts, who had education and opportunity • Anti-Semitism <p>The Inquisition began to make sure that Christians, especially conversos, truly believed.</p>
<p>How did it work?</p>	<p>A Dominican monk, Thomas de Torquemada, was the Inquisitor General. It began in Seville in 1481 with the burning of several prominent conversos, an “act of faith”. It had three stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 30-40 day grace period for voluntary confession. This was also an opportunity to bring evidence against other secret heretics. 2. Trial. This often included brutal interrogation or torture to make subjects confess. 3. Punishment. This was done as a procession, ending in a public square. A cross was raised, an oath to defend the faith sworn, a sermon given, and then a clergyman was given the honor of lighting the fire to burn the heretic at the stake.
<p>How and why were Jews expelled from Spain? 1492</p>	<p>In 1492, the last Muslim stronghold in Spain fell. The Reconquista was complete, except for the Jews—a divergent group, not unified with Spain.</p> <p>The Inquisition was a failure, because it didn't stop enough secret Jews and did nothing about open Jews. The decision was made, then, to expel the Jews, as they were heretical and an especially bad influence on New Christians, whom they would try to persuade to do teshuvah and return to Judaism. This decision was purely religious; the lack of Jews was detrimental politically and economically.</p> <p>The edict was announced in the winter of 1492. Jews had to leave in the end of July. They were permitted to bring property but not valuables or money. Jews davened, fasted, and tried to stop the decree; it was to no avail.</p> <p>In total, there were 80,000-200,000 exiles. Some were baptized so they would be allowed to stay—up to 50,000—or killed en route or before leaving—often by Christians looking for swallowed valuables.</p>
<p>How did Jewish communities end up in the Americas?</p>	<p>In 1492, Columbus sailed. No Jews were allowed to come, but at least 7 secret Jews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodreigo de Triana (saw land first) • Mastrate Bernal (doctor) • Luis de Torres (interpreter; converted on dock before departure) • Abraham Zacuto (astronomer) • Crecas brothers (navigators) <p>Jews weren't able to practice Judaism freely in the New World for a century, not until the Protestant Reformation and the decline of Spain, beginning with the Spanish Armada. Jewish communities in the colonies flourished.</p>

