# January 28 | Sunday Judaism and Christianity Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9



## 29 | Mon – Blessed in order to be a blessing | Read Genesis 12:1-3 and 15:1-6

God asked Abram to leave his country and a culture of worshipping multiple gods. In return, Abram was promised a relationship with the one true God, a new land and many descendants through whom the whole world would be blessed. Although Abram (later named Abraham) did not live to see all of those promises fulfilled, he believed God and became the father of the Jewish nation and Judaism. What are some areas in which Abraham's ethnic descendants have blessed the world? Hint: google "famous Jewish people".

## **30 | Tue – Moral law |** Read <u>Exodus 24:7 and 34:27-35</u>

In Judaism, the primary goal is to live in obedience to the covenant God made with Moses and the descendants of Abraham whom He had delivered out of slavery in Egypt. The moral law given at Mt. Sinai can be summarized in two commands....love God, love people. What positives spring from a deep desire to live out God's principles?

## 31 | Wed - Fulfilling the promise | Read 2 Samuel 7:8-16 and Psalm 89:3-4

King David was a descendant of Abraham. He received a promise, delivered by the prophet Nathan, that David's lineage and throne would last forever. David's descendants ruled for about 400 years but they did not always follow God's covenant and David's kingdom was eventually conquered in 587 BC. Because human beings failed to keep the covenant, does that mean God did not keep His promise to David? Good question... read Luke 1:31-33.

### 01 | Thu - Broken | Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Jeremiah grieved over the people's unfaithfulness which led to their exile but he also looked to the future with hope because of God's mercy. He mentions a new covenant coming, with laws being engraved on the heart, instead of stone, because people would know God as *their* God. When you take communion, may the familiar words of Jesus "this cup is the *new* covenant..." become more meaningful. Knowing this cost Jesus' blood, how do you live differently?

### 02 | Fri - Roots | Read Hebrews 1:1-3

Christianity shares much in common with the Jewish faith. We both share the first 39 books of scripture, a faith on one creator God who is our shepherd and king, and the belief that we are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, strength. Our disagreement is on the identity of Jesus. The writer of Hebrews did not see faith in Jesus as a repudiation of Old Testament scriptures but as a fulfillment of God's covenant. What helps you see the continuity between your faith and the faith of those in the Old Testament?

#### 03 | Sat - Esteem | Read Galatians 3:6-9 and 26-29

Paul loved his Jewish heritage. Loyalty led him to persecute Jesus followers until an encounter with the risen Christ changed his perspective. Paul saw the God he loved was making a way, through Jesus, for non-Jews to also become a part of the covenant family. Your Christian beliefs are rooted in Jewish scriptures. But not understanding how privileged we are to be adopted into Abraham's family can result in ugly anti-Semitic consequences. Hear one pastor's challenge to 'hold our Jewish friends and neighbors in high esteem because they are our older brothers and sisters in faith.' How does this affect your view of Judaism?

