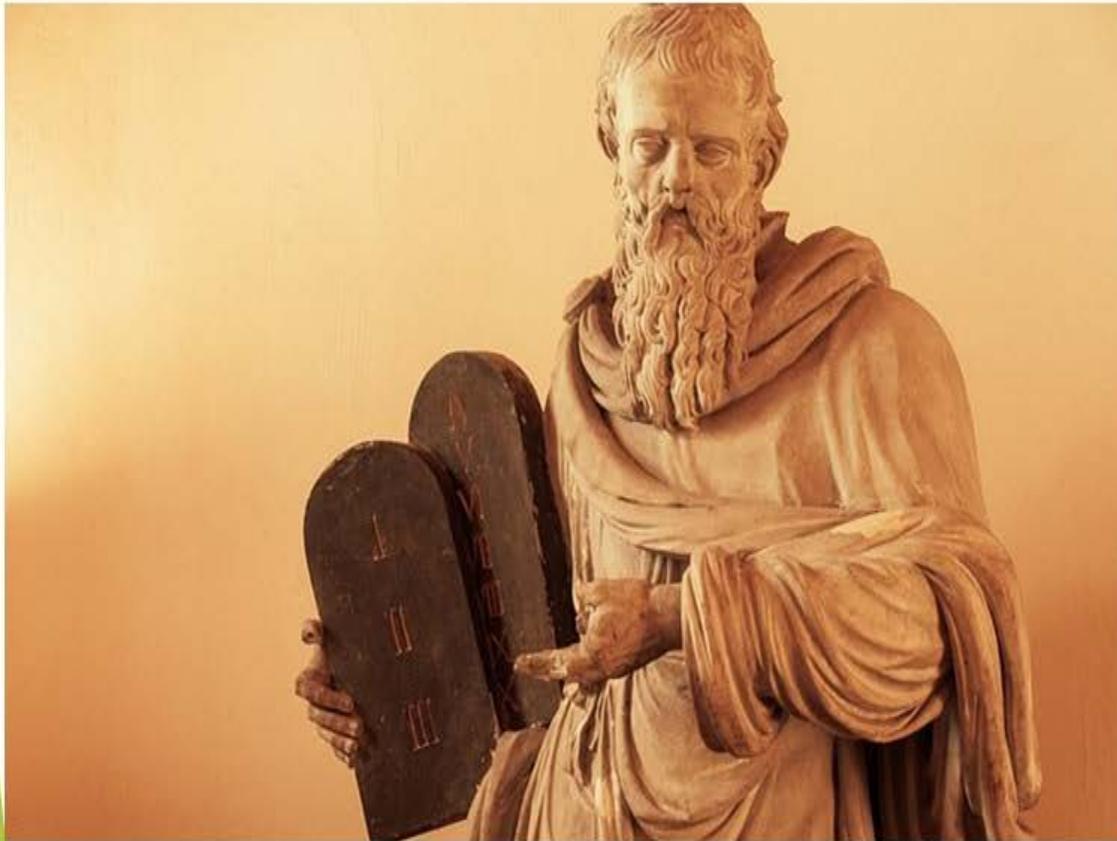


JUDAISM

and its reliance on the sense of time



Set 03 of 12 slide sets

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What do you understand as the cosmos?

Does the tension between Judaism and Hellenism have a cosmic dynamic?

Judaism: law, history, covenant, morality, relationship, time

Hellenism: order, rationalism, idealism, geometry, urbanism, place

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Consider Judaism:

- ▶ Nobody would be justified in claiming that they could sum up Judaism in a few short words.
- ▶ However, our brief here is to consider to what extent Judaism as a society relies on and bases itself on the sense of time.
- ▶ It would thereby be in a dialectical tension with a society that bases itself upon the sense of place. .

Is the World View of Judaism

Heavily Based on the Sense of Time?

What do you think?

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► We could list many attributes that show how Judaism appreciates its origins in **time**

- In ancient times Jews were known as “**the people of the book**”, that is they based their society on the Torah which outlined their history.
- So, from its beginnings Judaism has been re-directed towards its **history** and the sense of time.

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► The *Torah* (cf. the first five books of the Old Testament of the Bible) of the Jews requires people to keep the Commandments

► *You shall keep My statutes and My laws, which a person shall do and shall live by them.*

(Leviticus 18:5)

► The *Torah* constantly shows how, within the history of the Jewish people, when they broke their covenant with God catastrophe would follow e.g. the Jewish exile in Babylon 597 BCE



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Judaism is based upon **Law**, that is the **Ten Commandments** given by God to Moses around C12th BCE

Law in itself is based upon the sense of time.

In natural law for instance, there is a cause and effect connection.

► Someone trips on a step and the effect is they hit the ground below.



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The Jews believe they have a covenant with God, that is, an agreement that lasts over the centuries

This **covenant** extends over time and ensures the on-going existence of the Jewish people.

The on-going development of an extended family and people of course takes place over **time**.



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Jews observe a **liturgical calendar** which allows them to pause and consider the key tenets of their faith.

A key part of this is their observance of the **Sabbath**.



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▶ Jews believe if they observe the commandments of God, God in turn will look after them.

▶ They constantly refer back to how **God parted the Red Sea** to allow Moses to guide the Israelites to a promised land.



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Many of the observances, especially of orthodox Jews, relate to the observance of time, for instance the practice of praying **five times a day**



No. 61

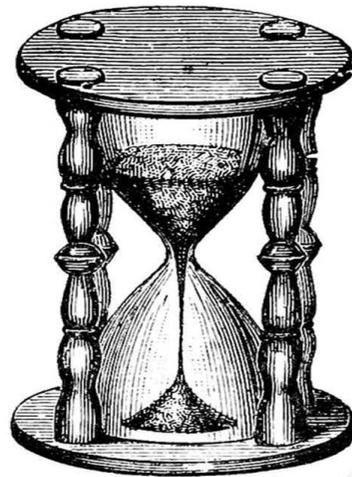
► At the present time Jews continue to harken back to their persecution by Nazis at the time of the 2nd world war.



Interesting to note that Nazism was largely based on the philosophy of the Enlightenment.

Some of the leading Enlightenment philosophers rejected tradition (cf. time) in all its forms

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The roots of the Enlightenment can be traced back to Greek Philosophy

It is said that when the philosopher Heidegger began to claim (in *Being and Time* 1927) that “being is time”, the philosophy of the Enlightenment was ‘thrown on its head’.

One could wonder if the Nazi persecution of the Jews was ultimately based upon their hostility, to the Jewish stress on the sense of time.

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What about Hellenism,

i.e. a society based upon Greek philosophy and its rationalism and interest in the ordered patterns of the universe? ?

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