

# Judaism is...



- “A 4000 year old tradition with ideas about what it means to be human and how to make the world a holy place”  
(Rabbi Harold Kushner, *To Life*)
- A “covenant relationship” between God and the Hebrew people
- A celebration and sanctification of life
- A faith, a people, a way of life...

# A 4000 year old tradition...

- The Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (“Israel”) – origins of the Hebrew people (more than 3800 years ago)
- Enslaved in ancient Egypt and freed by Moses (more than 3300 years ago)
- Hebrew monarchy in the “Promised Land” (The Land of Israel), ends 6th century BCE





# As a faith, Jews Believe...



- In one God, creator of the universe
- In prophets of old – especially Moses, through whom Torah was revealed to the Hebrew people
- In Torah (first five books of the Bible), containing religious, moral and social law which guides the life of a Jew
  - the Hebrew Bible does *not* include the New Testament

# As a people, Jews are...



- A nation in *Diaspora* (dispersed)
- 15 – 16 million in worldwide population
- United by a common heritage (an “ethnic” religion), divided in contemporary practice:



# How does Judaism sanctify life?

## Life cycle celebrations:



- Bris – ritual circumcision, sign of the covenant
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah – full adult status and responsibility within the religion
- Marriage – "Be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:22)
- Death – funerals, mourning (sitting "Shiva"), and memorials ("Yartzeits")



# How does Judaism sanctify time?

## The Jewish Holidays:

- High Holidays:

- Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)
- Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

- Sukkot, the “Festival of Booths” (fall harvest festival)

- Simchat Torah – celebrating Torah

- Chanukah, the “Festival of Lights”



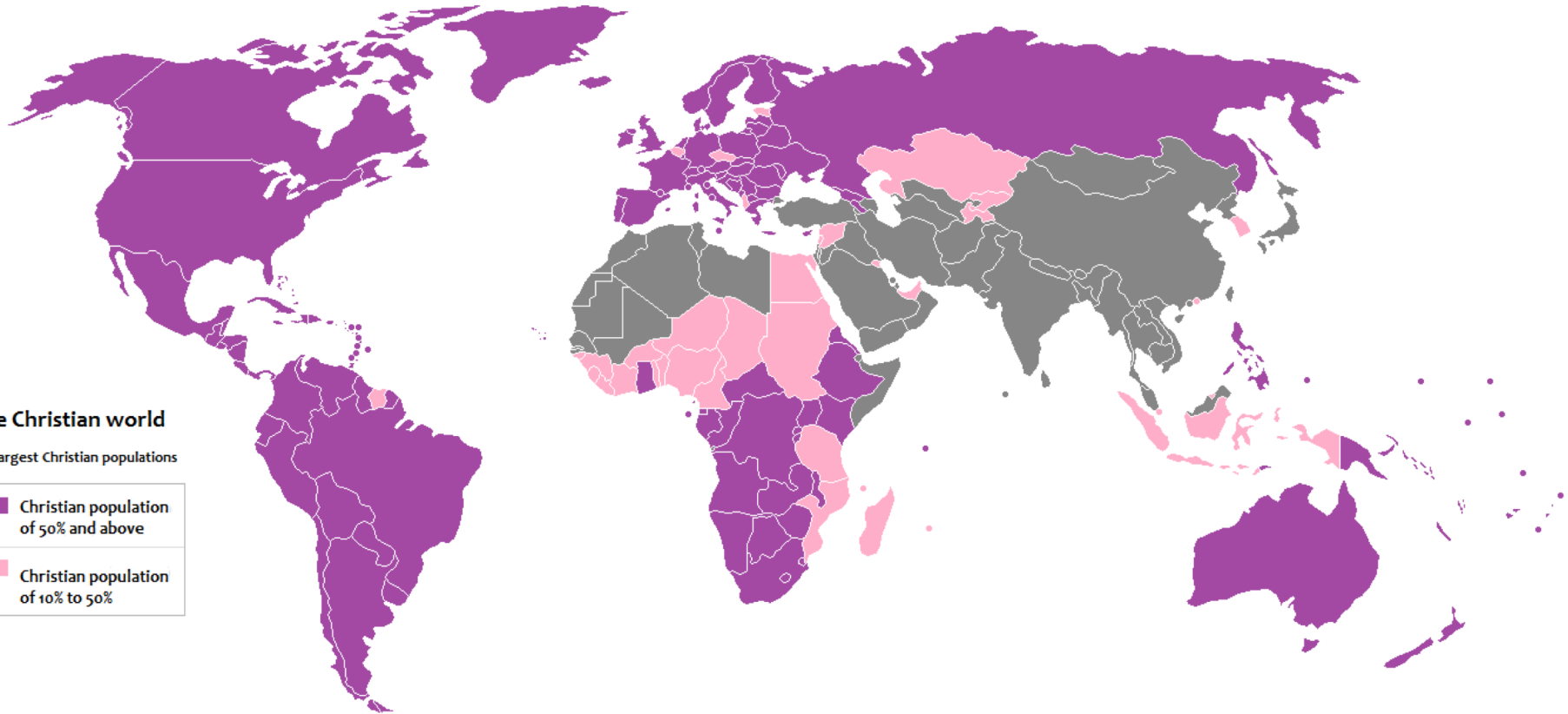
# Christianity 30 C.E.- present

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- World's largest religion
- 33% world population
- 2.1 billion followers

## The Christian world

The largest Christian populations



# Origins

- Nazareth (born)
- Outskirts of
- Jerusalem (crucified)

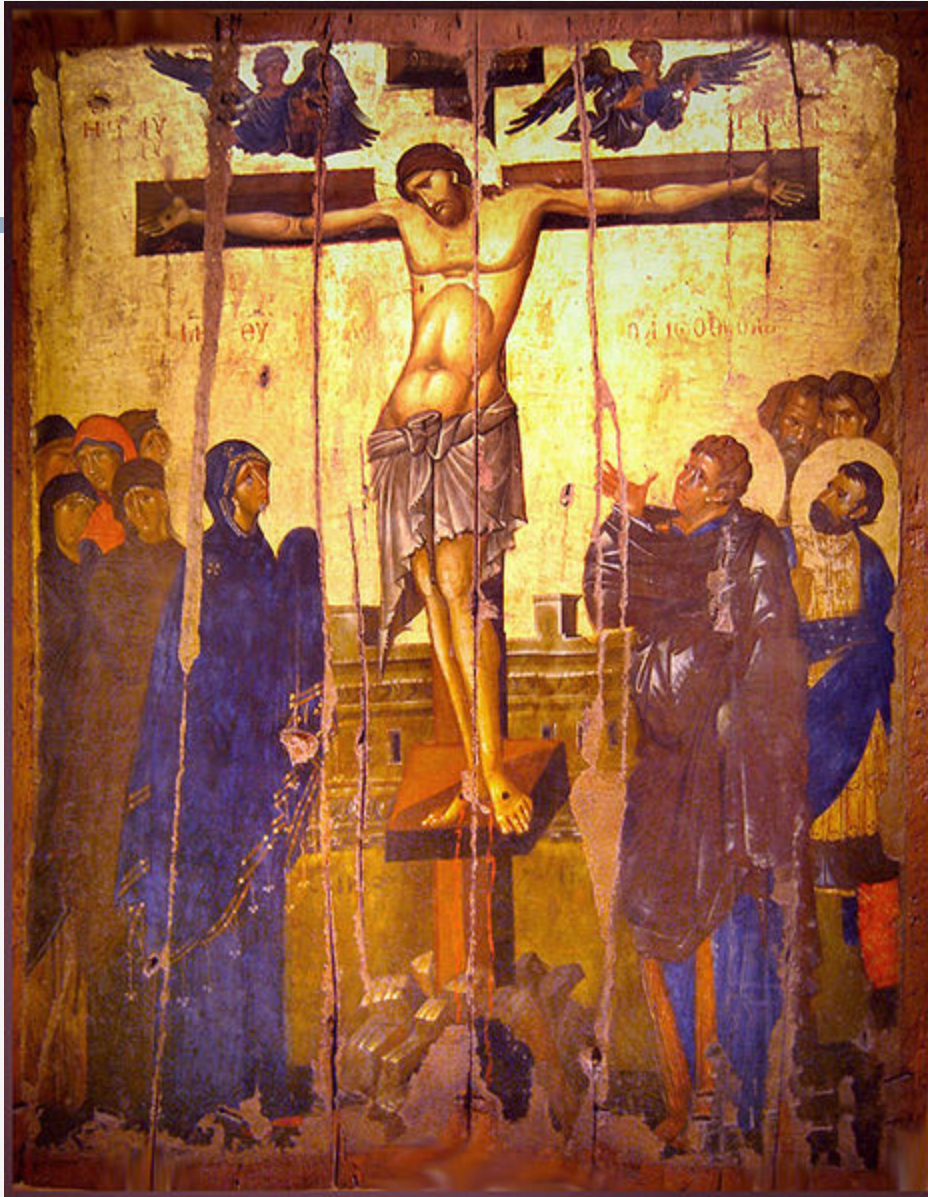




# Crucifixion

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- Sentenced to death by Pontius Pilot (Roman official) for “inciting rebellion.”
- Crucified, died, entombed.
- Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.
- Jesus told followers to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” He then ascended to heaven.
- \*Note: Jesus was Jewish

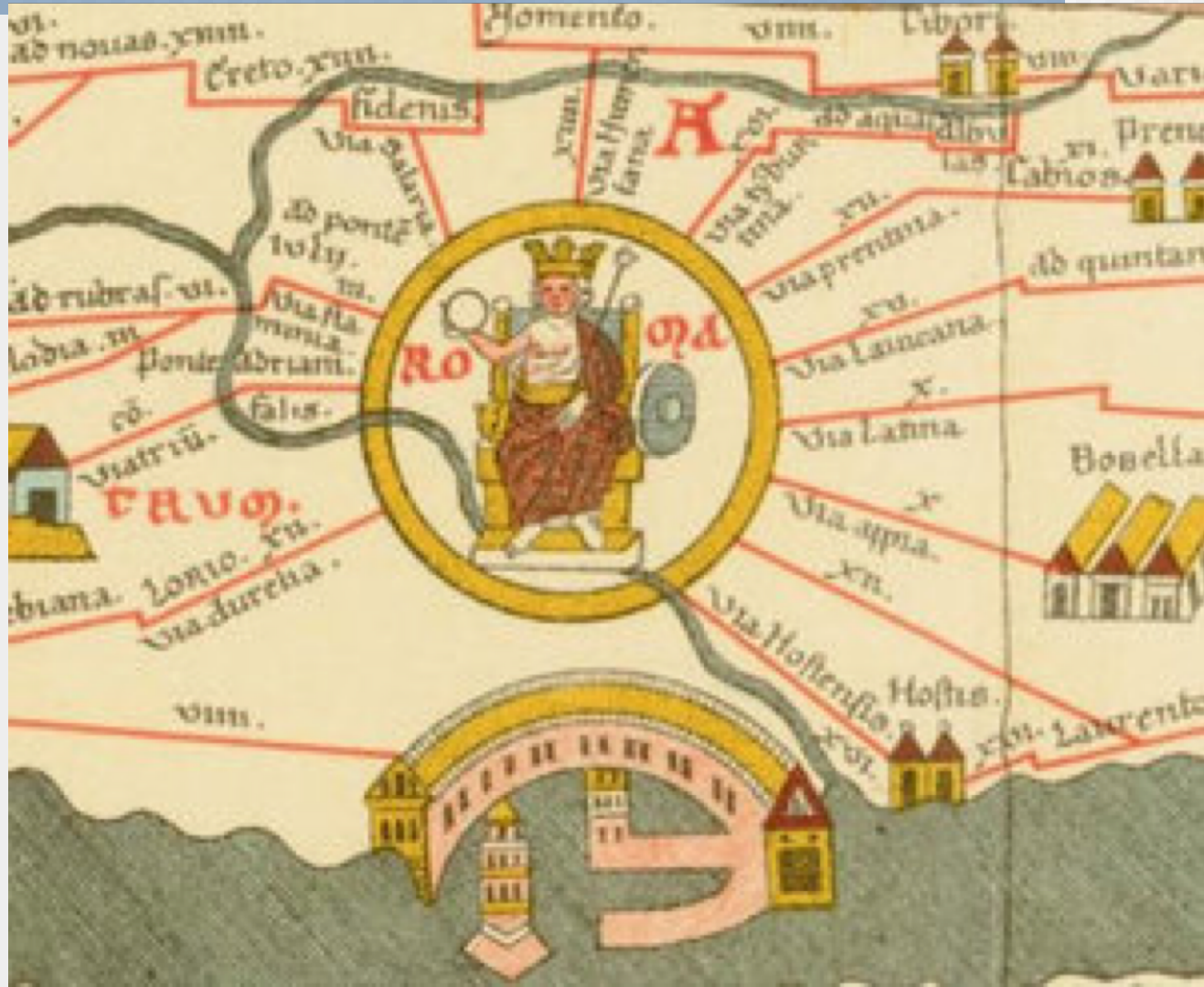


# Beliefs

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- Monotheistic
- Jesus was the Son of God
- Christian Messiah or Christ
- Sinful humans can be forgiven and accepted to God and offered salvation and the promise of eternal life
- People are saved by God's grace and acceptance of Christ as savior

# All Roads Lead to Rome



# Early Leaders

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Paul

Known for his early efforts in spreading Christianity

Peter

The first bishop of Rome



# Holy Scripture

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- Bible (both old and new testaments)
- Old Testament (written in Hebrew)
  - 5 books of Moses, Jewish Torah
- New Testament (written in Greek)
  - Baptism, miracles, preaching, teaching, and deeds of Jesus



# Spread of Christianity

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- East to Asia and throughout Roman Empire (despite persecution)
- Legalized religion in 313 C.E. by...

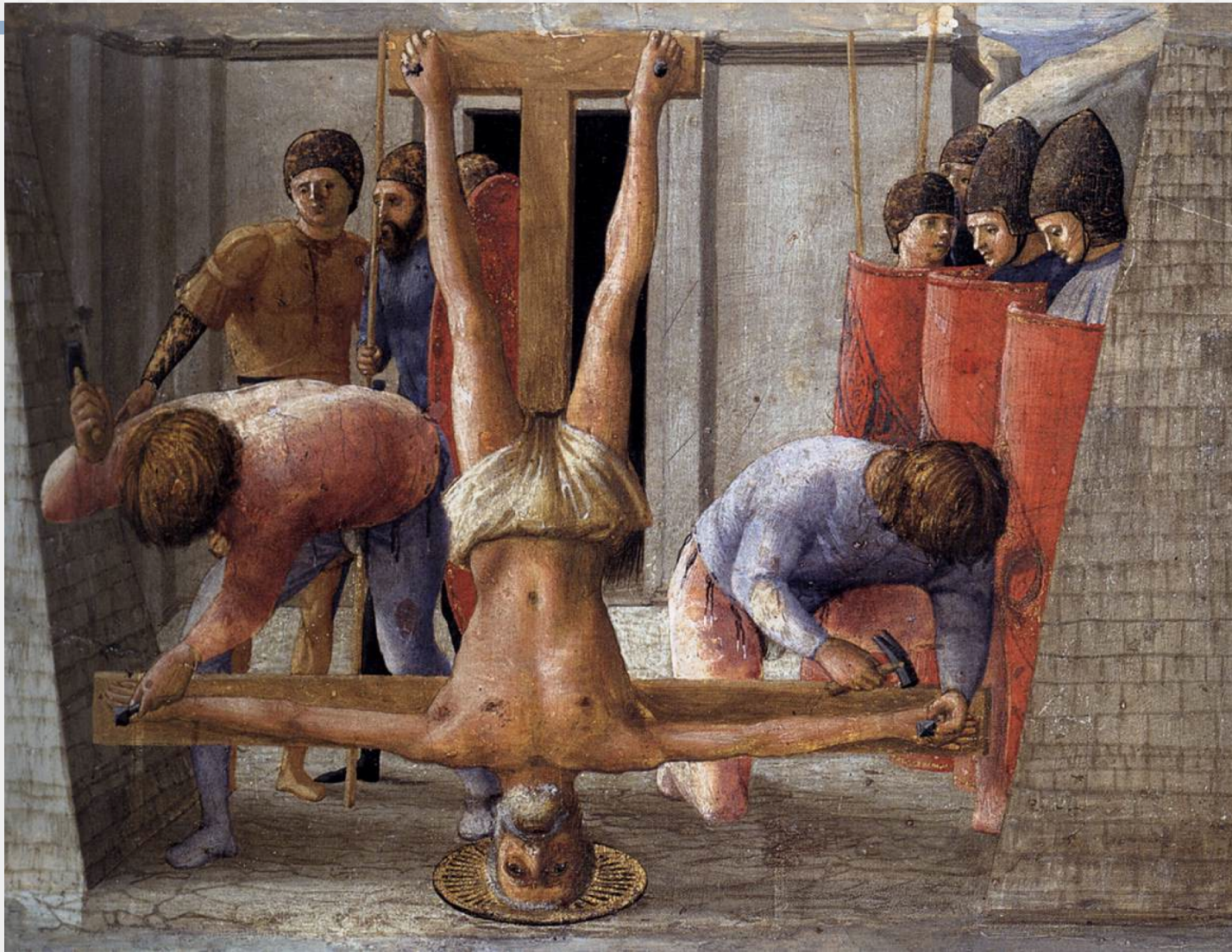


# Early Christian Martyrs





# Early Christian Martyrs



# Breaks in the Church

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- Donatist Schism
  - Forgiveness of those who had lapsed?
- **Great Schism** (1054) split Christianity into 2 parts: Catholic (Latin) West and Orthodox (Greek) East



**Baptism**

**Confirmation**

**Holy Eucharist**

**Anointing of the Sick**

**Reconciliation**

**Marriage**

**Holy Orders**

# Branches of Christianity

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Divisions based off of cultural, political, and disciplinary differences.

■ **Roman Catholic Church**

■ **Eastern Orthodox Church**

New branch formed to reform the Catholic Church and society due to corruption and immorality in clergy

**Protestant Reformation** 1517 – Martin Luther



# 3 Major Branches

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## ■ Catholicism

- Largest denomination of Christianity
- Over 900 million followers

## ■ Orthodox

- Greece, Romania, Russia

## ■ Protestant

- Methodism, Presbyterianism, Lutheranism, Baptism, etc.

# Also known for

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- Missionaries
  - To spread the faith
- Pope in Rome
  - Contested power with kings
- Holy Trinity
  - Father, Son, Spirit

