

# The Torah

What is it?

Why is it so important to the  
Jewish people?

# Introduction

- The Torah is the **sacred text** of the Jewish people.
- Traditional Jewish people believe that God told Moses all of the Torah on Mount Sinai, and that Moses wrote down his exact words.



# Introduction

- Less traditional Jewish people believe that people *inspired* by God wrote the Torah.
- Almost all Jewish people believe that God gave Moses the ten commandments. Can you name any?

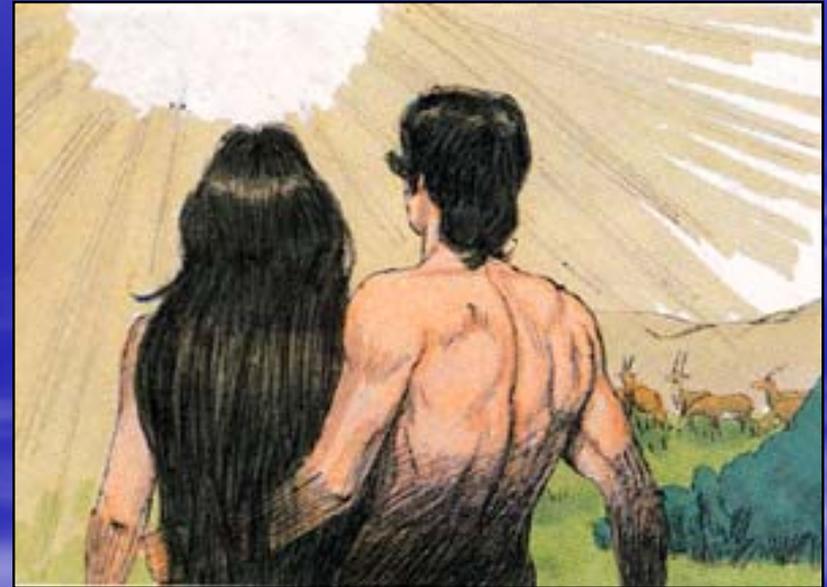


# What's in the Torah?

- The word Torah actually means 'teaching'. The Torah is made up of five books, also known as the five books of Moses.
- These books are called: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
- When Jewish people talk about the Torah, they sometimes include other important books written by people to help explain the Jewish laws.

# What's in the Torah?

- The Torah is a mixture of stories and teachings.
- One famous story is about how God created the first human beings. Can you remember what this story is called?



# Book of rules

- The Torah contains lots of instructions about how Jewish people should live.
- Altogether, there are 613 commandments like this.



What do you think “Kosher” Means?

- They tell Jewish people how to pray, what to eat and which festivals to celebrate.

# The Torah Scroll

- The Torah that is read in the Synagogue is written on a scroll.
- They are made by specially trained people, written on *parchment*.
- They are not allowed to leave in any mistakes!
- When they are finished, the scrolls are decorated as beautifully as possible.

# The decorated Torah



# What does the Torah teach?

- In the Torah, rules for everyday life are only talked about very briefly.
- Over thousands of years, *Rabbis* have talked about what the Torah meant and came up with details of how Jewish people should live their lives.
- Lots of these ideas can be seen on the next page.

Being Kind

Family  
Charity

Kosher Food

Care for animals

Looking after other people

Keeping the Sabbath

# Conclusion

- The Torah is the “instruction manual” for being Jewish. Not every Jewish person follows all the rules, but all Jews see the Torah as being sacred and special.
- It has lots of stories in it that make up the ‘Old Testament’ for Christians and Muslims too.
- What do you think about the Torah?