

How Does Abraham Influence the Abrahamic Faiths?

Year 8 Term 2



(1) Keywords		(2) Judeo-Christian Story of Abraham	(3) Islamic Story of Ibrahim
Abrahamic Faiths	The three monotheistic religions, started by Abraham. Judaism (1400BC), Christianity (4BC), Islam (610AD).	Genesis 12—God’s Covenants with Abraham 1. Promised Land– God instructed Abraham to move to the promised land and this would be a blessed place for all of his decedent's. 2. Lots of Children–God promised Abraham more children than stars in the sky. 3. His family would be God’s chosen people– God promised Abraham that his descendants were the chosen people of God. <u>Genesis 22– The near sacrifice of Isaac</u> After many years, God told Abraham that he must take his son Isaac and sacrifice him to God. Abraham loved Isaac and did not want him to die but he followed God’s commandment and prepared to sacrifice Isaac. At the last minute an angel appeared and said, “Don’t kill your son or hurt him in any way. Now I can see that you respect God. I see that you have not kept your son, your only son, from me.” (Genesis 22)	Ibrahim was a loyal servant of God. He rejected the Idols of Mecca and was committed to monotheism (the belief in one God.) He was so committed to Allah that he was almost burnt alive for reject the Pegan idols. Years later, Ibrahim had a vision where he was sacrificing his eldest son Ismail. He asked Ismail what he thought he should do and Ismail agreed to go ahead with the sacrifice. On their Journey they were tempted by Iblis to disobey God. However they threw stones at him to show that they rejected the temptation and Iblis himself. They prepared for the sacrifice and at the last moment the angels appeared and said, “The angels cried out to him “O Ibrahim! You have already fulfilled the vision! We reward those who do right.” The vision was obviously a test and Ibrahim was willing to give a momentous sacrifice. The angels left this blessing for Ibrahim for generations to come” (Surah 37).
10 Commandments	The ten rules given to Moses by God.		
Circumcision	The surgical removal of male foreskin.		
Monotheism	The belief in one God.		
Ibrahim	The Arabic name for Abraham.		
Covenant	Promise/ agreement.		
Hajj	Main pilgrimage (holy journey) for Muslims.		
Ka’ba	The ‘House of God’ - Islam’s most holy site.		
Pilgrimage	A holy, sacred, journey.		
(4) Abraham’s Influence on Judaism—Brit Milah		(5) Abraham’s Influence on Christianity—Sacrifice	(6) Ibrahim’s Influence on Islam—Hajj and Eid-UI-Adha
<p>The story of Abraham influences Jewish people to celebrate the festival of Brit Milah, which involves the circumcision of baby boys, aged 8 days old.</p> <p>In the Torah (Genesis) it states, “Every male among you must be circumcised. You must obey this agreement.” Circumcision is a way of showing they accept God’s covenants and they are God’s chosen people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•During the circumcision, the child is held on the lap of a person who has been chosen to act as Sandek. The grandfather of the child or the family rabbi often takes this role, and it is considered an honour to do this.•Blessings are recited and a drop or two of wine is place in the child's mouth.•He is given his official Hebrew name.•Afterwards the family celebrates with a festive meal.		<p>The story of Abraham teaches Christians the importance of sacrifice. Historically The Hebrews sacrificed (killed) animals to show their love for God! This is because animals were valuable, and therefore killing an animal and offering it to God was a way of saying how much you loved God. Christians no longer sacrifice an animal to show their love for God because Jesus taught: “To love God with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”</p> <p>The story of Abraham influences Christians to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be loyal and obedient to God because this life is a test• To trust that God will provide for them• Christians today do good works and care for those in need as a form of Sacrifice	<p>Hajj remembers Ibrahim, Hajar and their son Ismail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tawaf - The Ka’ba was originally built by Ibrahim and Ismail, as a place of worship dedicated to Allah. Muslims today visit the Ka’ba to remember Ibrahim’s devotion to the one God.• Sa’y - Muslims also run between the two hills of Al-Safa and Al-Marwa like Hajar did. They drink from the Zam Zam river God provided for her and Ismail, remembering God’s omnipotence.• Jamarat - Muslims today throw stones at three pillars to remember Ibrahim’s rejection of Iblis and temptation.• Eid ul-Adha - they sacrifice a sheep and share the meat with the poor. Ibrahim was willing to sacrifice the thing that was most precious to him. The story is a reminder that Muslims must be willing to give for the good of other people. <p>Eid-UI-Adha is the festival of sacrifice and also known as “Greater Eid”. Muslims celebrate Eid-UI-Adha by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sacrificing and sharing the meat of an animal.• Going to the Mosque for a special service focusing on the story of Ibrahim.



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