

# *Contents*

Preface *vii*

Introduction *1*

## **Chapter One. The Foundations of Judaism**

What Do People Think Judaism Is? *5*

The Founding of Judaism *10*

Two Ways of Understanding History: The Alternative of  
Rabbinic Judaism *15*

The Destruction of the Second Temple and the Birth of  
Rabbinic Judaism *19*

Faith of Torah: The Symbol of Torah *35*

The Aftermath of Disaster *42*

## **Chapter Two. The Structure of Judaism: Torah, God, Israel**

The Process of Torah: Midrash *47*

The Essentials of Rabbinic Literature: Mishnah and  
Talmud *53*

The Talmudic Mode of Thought	68
The Religious Beliefs of Judaism: God and Israel	75
God	76
The Individual Person	86
The Family: Adam and Even in the New Eden, Redemption in the Here and Now	94
Israel: The Jewish People	97
Timelessness and Eternity	110
<b>Chapter Three. Judaism in Modern Times: New Messianism, Renewed Torah</b>	
The New Age	115
The End of Traditional Society	119
Strengthening the Foundations	125
Reform Judaism	130
Zionism	145
The Holocaust	154
Reform Judaism and Zionism: The Synthesis of American Judaism	166
Torah and Messiah	170
Glossary	177
Biblical and Talmudic References	191
Index	193