ירון אמסלם

0000 00:00:00:00 00:00:00:0

0001 01:00:03:19 01:00:08:10

It is said that being Jewish
means being able to pack quickly.

0002 01:00:09:23 01:00:13:03

Perhaps that explains how a small,
wandering nation

0003 01:00:13:05 01:00:15:24

succeeded in reinventing itself
time and again throughout history

0004 01:00:16:01 01:00:19:05

and attained key positions
all over the world.

0005 01:00:22:09 01:00:25:11

It all began some 3,000 years ago.

0006 01:00:30:11 01:00:35:06

Abraham son of Terah, a shepherd from Aram-Naharaim,
leaves his home following a spiritual revelation.

0007 01:00:40:09 01:00:44:01

At the end of a long journey
Abraham and his wife Sarah reach Canaan,

0008 01:00:44:03 01:00:46:22

a small area on the banks
of the Mediterranean Sea.

0009 01:00:46:24 01:00:53:01

There Abraham establishes a new, revolutionary religion
which he passes on to his descendants Isaac and Jacob.

0010 01:01:05:09 01:01:07:14

But right then...

0010a 01:01:07:16 01:01:10:11

a severe drought strikes Canaan.

0011 01:01:11:01 01:01:15:17

Jacob's sons take their families
to the land of endless opportunities.

0012 01:01:17:18 01:01:21:22

But for the next 200 years,
things in Egypt go somewhat awry.

0013 01:01:23:11 01:01:25:00

Until the arrival of...

0013a 01:01:25:02 01:01:27:00

Moses, the Great Liberator,

0014 01:01:27:02 01:01:33:11

the first but not last leader
who would try to return the Jewish people home.

0016 01:01:42:22 01:01:47:16

After Moses's death the Israelites conquer the land
from the Canaanite nations living there.

0017 01:01:47:18 01:01:52:24

The 12 tribes eventually unite into a single kingdom,
which reaches its peak in the days of David and Solomon

0018 01:01:53:01 01:01:55:24

and the building of the Temple.

0019 01:01:57:15 01:01:59:20

In the ensuing years
empires rise and fall.

0020 01:01:59:22 01:02:02:05

The Babylonians defeat the Assyrians,

0021 01:02:02:07 01:02:04:03

the Persians beat the Babylonians,

0021a 01:02:04:05 01:02:05:12

the Greeks beat the Persians

0021b 01:02:05:14 01:02:08:09

and the Diadochi beat each other.

0022 01:02:08:11 01:02:10:18

But the Jewish people continues
to dwell in Israel,

0023 01:02:10:20 01:02:14:13

Except for a brief exodus or two
in Babylonia and Alexandria.

0024 01:02:14:15 01:02:17:17

But then the Romans come along.

0025 01:02:20:18 01:02:25:05

Following a series of unsuccessful Jewish uprisings
the Second Temple is destroyed

0026 01:02:25:07 01:02:28:17

and the Jewish people scatter in every direction.

0027 01:02:32:05 01:02:37:14

The Jewish slaves led to Europe
find freedom and establish new communities.

0028 01:02:38:10 01:02:43:00

Surprisingly, the Jews' exotic religion
is perceived by the Romans as the height of fashion,

0029 01:02:43:02 01:02:46:21

and Judaism spreads
throughout the empire...

0030 01:02:46:23 01:02:49:19

until Christianity comes along.

0031 01:02:49:21 01:02:55:00

Rome falls, the Middle Ages commence
and with them the promise of a better future.

0032 01:03:01:20 01:03:04:11

For the Jews of Spain
this is a Golden Age,

0033 01:03:04:13 01:03:09:00

an unprecedented cultural flourishing
under the Muslim regime.

0034 01:03:29:02 01:03:31:21

Beyond the Pyrenees, too,
the future looks promising.

0034a 01:03:31:23 01:03:34:06

Perceived as catalysts
for economic growth, the Jews

0034b 01:03:34:08 01:03:38:00

are invited by Charlemagne
to settle Western Europe.

0035 01:03:40:03 01:03:43:02

But just as it seems like everything
is finally going to work out,

0036 01:03:43:04 01:03:46:04

Black Death strikes Europe.

0037 01:03:48:04 01:03:52:09

The deadly plague and the ensuing persecutions
force many Jews eastward

0038 01:03:52:11 01:03:55:10

into Poland and Lithuania.

0039 01:04:00:05 01:04:03:02

The Golden Age of Spain
also comes to a gloomy end

0040 01:04:03:04 01:04:07:03

with the Christian takeover
and the establishment of the Inquisition.

0041 01:04:10:19 01:04:12:15

The Jews of Spain
are expelled

0042 01:04:12:17 01:04:16:17

and migrate to the Ottoman Empire
and North Africa.

0043 01:04:20:14 01:04:22:24

Now the Jews
are divided into two groups:

0044 01:04:23:01 01:04:27:02

The Sephardis in the Ottoman Empire and North Africa
and the Ashkenazis in Poland-Lithuania.

0045 01:04:28:23 01:04:31:13

There are also
isolated Jewish communities

0046 01:04:31:15 01:04:34:20

in Ethiopia, Yemen and India.

0047 01:04:36:04 01:04:38:10

It could have all ended there,

0048 01:04:38:12 01:04:42:24

had not a new, wondrous world
been discovered across the ocean.

0048a 01:04:43:01 01:04:45:21

A world with no Jews at all.

0050 01:04:48:04 01:04:50:20

Immigration to the American continent begins.

0051 01:04:52:08 01:04:56:10

Over the next 300 years
the Europeans settle the New World,

0052 01:04:56:12 01:05:01:01

followed by the Jews,
freed at last from past persecutions.

0053 01:05:06:01 01:05:10:02

Winds of tolerance come to Western Europe
and the Jews are granted rights,

0055 01:05:10:04 01:05:14:12

allowing them to join
the industrial, social and cultural revolution

0056 01:05:14:14 01:05:17:05

sweeping through the continent.

0057 01:05:20:04 01:05:22:06

In North Africa and
the Mediterranean countries

0058 01:05:22:08 01:05:26:20

the Jews make significant contributions to the
economic and cultural growth of their societies.

0059 01:05:28:08 01:05:33:02

Over the next century
the Jews disperse throughout the world.

0060 01:05:34:12 01:05:36:19

Trains, planes, steamships,

0061 01:05:36:21 01:05:41:09

all these modern means
advance Jewish migration.

0062 01:05:50:16 01:05:55:14

Yet still, antisemitism
unsettles Jews all over the world.

0063 01:05:58:04 01:06:01:18

Consequently,
nationalist Jewish movements rise,

0064 01:06:01:20 01:06:04:22

including the Zionist movement.

0065 01:06:09:14 01:06:14:07

Antisemitism in Europe increases steadily
with the outbreak of World War II

0066 01:06:14:09 01:06:17:05

and culminates abhorrently with the Holocaust,

0066a 01:06:17:07 01:06:21:00

in which some six million Jews are murdered.

0067 01:06:25:24 01:06:30:04

In the wake of the war a new wave
of Jewish migration begins.

0068 01:06:37:21 01:06:41:22

And while a massive Jewish community
forms in America,

0069 01:06:45:10 01:06:50:14

the fledgling State of Israel also attracts
Jews from all over the world

0070 01:06:50:16 01:06:55:04

as the displaced Jews of Europe
are joined by deportees from Islamic states.

0071 01:06:56:03 01:07:01:16

Only the Soviet Jews remain imprisoned
behind the Iron Curtain for many years.

0072 01:07:05:15 01:07:11:06

Today, after thousands of years, the Jewish people
inhabits its own land again, like any other nation.

0073 01:07:12:02 01:07:16:07

Still, perhaps from habit
or just in case,

0074 01:07:16:09 01:07:19:07

the world's Jews continue
to spread throughout the globe,

0075 01:07:19:09 01:07:20:15

striving to fit in

0076 01:07:20:17 01:07:25:09

and leave their unique mark
wherever they go.

0077 01:07:25:11 01:07:30:20

Some even say that it's only a matter of time
before Jews reach outer space.

0078 01:07:30:22 01:07:32:16

But that's another story altogether.