Section 2
Judeo-Christian Tradition

Judaism and Christianity taught individual worth, ethical values, and the need to fight injustice.

Judaism

Created in God's Image

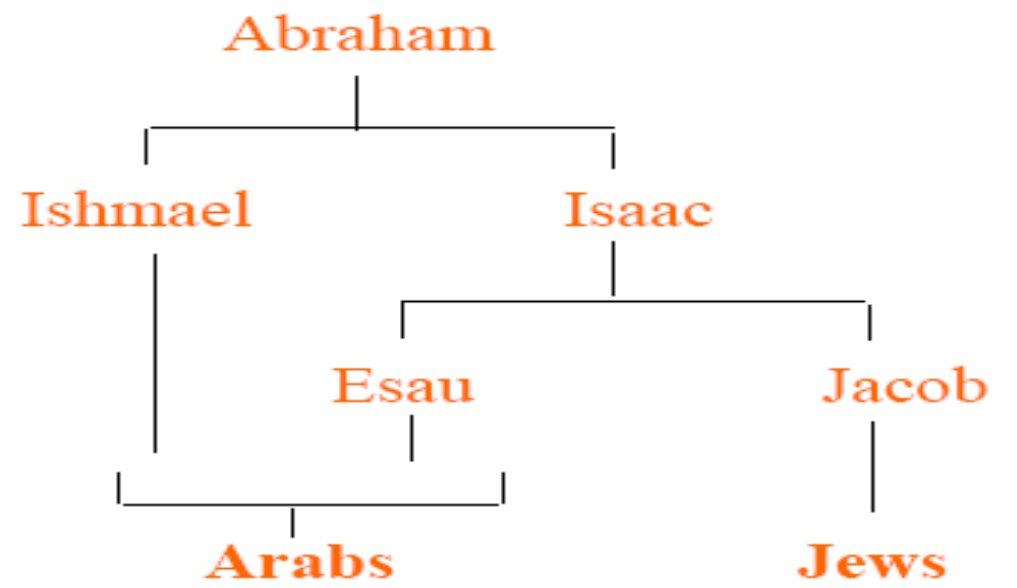- Judaism—monotheistic religion of the Hebrews (later, the Jews)
- Hebrew Bible says humans created in God's image, gives them dignity
- Hebrew God gives people moral freedom, responsibility for choices

Jewish Law Teaches Morality

- Bible says God gave Moses Ten Commandments, other laws [Visual]
  - focus on morality, ethics, religious behavior
- Prophets stress social conscience: oppose injustice, assist needy

Moses

Abraham

- Ishmael
- Isaac
  - Esau
  - Jacob

Arabs

Jews

Christianity

The Teachings of Christianity

- Jesus stresses love for God, neighbors, enemies, selves
- Teaches God will end evil in world, establish eternal kingdom
  - those who repent their sins can get life after death there
- Called Jesus Christ, from Christos—Greek for "messiah" or "savior"
- Christianity—religion founded by Jesus

Christianity grew out of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. It was a fringe cult religion until emperor Constantine, converted to Christianity.

Constantine required his soldiers to paint Christion symbols on their shields before battle.

Christianity

The Spread of Christianity

- Paul preaches around eastern Mediterranean; welcomes all converts
- Stresses equality of all people—belief central to democracy

Rome Spreads Judeo-Christian Ideas

- Jews exiled from homeland in A.D. 70 after rebelling against Romans
- Flee to many parts of world; share beliefs in justice, human dignity
- At first, Romans persecute Christians
  - by 380 Christianity official religion of empire

Islam

The Teachings of Muhammad

- Islam—monotheistic religion based on the teachings of Muhammad
- Stresses dignity, brotherhood of people, tolerance of other groups
- Holy book called Qur'an; followers called Muslims *[Visual]*

The Legacy of Monotheistic Religions

- Ideas that emerge are crucial to shaping of democratic outlook
  - duty of individual, community to combat oppression
  - worth of the individual; equality of people before God

Decorated page from a manuscript of the Qur'an (about A.D. 900).

Renaissance and Reformation

Christianity in the Middle Ages

- Roman Catholic Church—most powerful institution in Europe
- Influences religious, social, political life
- Church's authoritarian structure demands unquestioned obedience

Renaissance and Reformation

Renaissance Revives Classical Ideas

- Renaissance—movement stressing classical culture
  - starts in 1300s in Italy; helped by development of printing press [Visual]
- Rejects medieval view that life is only preparation for afterlife
- Renewed interest in human potential, earthly achievements
- Role of government questioned; individualism prized
- Explorers venture into uncharted territory, build huge empires

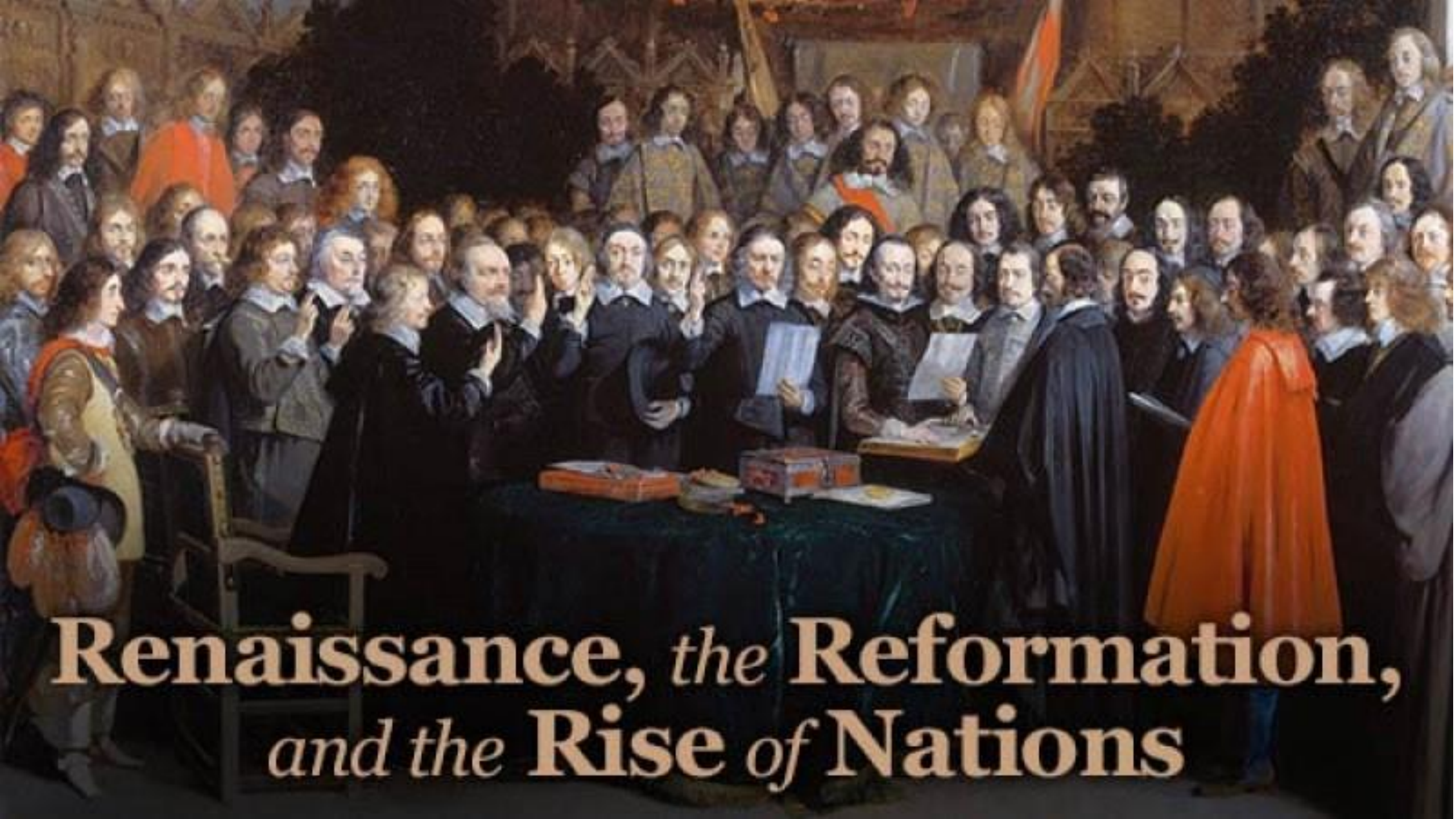Illustration of the Renaissance printer Johann Gutenberg in his workshop.

Renaissance and Reformation

The Reformation Challenges Church Power

- Reformation—religious reform movement of 16th century
- Protestants speak against power, abuses of Catholic Church
- Tell people to read Bible, make own religious judgments

Legacy of the Renaissance and Reformation

- Renaissance, Reformation promote democracy
  - challenge authority of pope, rulers; stress value of individual
  - promote reading of Bible that leads to reading about other ideas

Renaissance, *the* Reformation, *and the* Rise *of* Nations

Thank you for your attention