

For grades 7
TORAH'S BIG IDEAS
JEWISH HISTORY - 1

THE DIALOGUE

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE FOR THE CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL COMMUNITY

This week, we began the first of our 3-part Jewish History Overview. Yup, we're going to cover 7,000 years in 7 hours! Often, when people hear the word 'history' they break out in a cold sweat. "Ugh, memorizing names, dates, places and events!" This is probably why Mark Twain said, "I never let my schooling interfere with my education." So, let's talk about why learning about our history is important.

Which of the statements below do you relate to?

*"Those who cannot remember the past are destined to repeat it."
- Spanish-American philosopher, George Santayana*

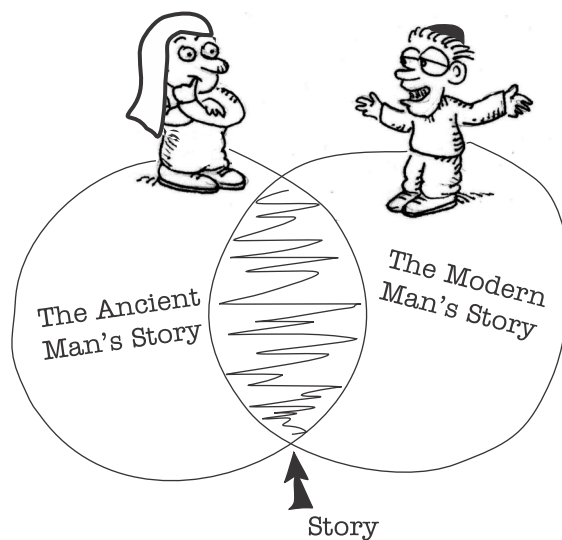
*"History is philosophy with examples."
Lord Henry Bolingbroke (1678-1751)*

*Remember the days of old;
understand the generation after generation.
Ask your elders and they will tell you.
Torah, Deuteronomy 32:7*

*"WHEN WE STUDY JEWISH HISTORY,
WE STRENGTHEN OUR NATIONAL
IDENTITY AND PRIDE, KNOWING
THAT WE ARE BUT A LINK ON A
MIGHTY CHAIN STRENGTHENED
THROUGH COUNTLESS CENTURIES."*



*"Hey, it's my family story.
Of course I want to know
about my own family!"*



People, more or less, are always the same. Empires rise and fall, technology might change, the geopolitical realities of the world might change, but people tend to do the same stupid things over and over again. And unless we learn from the past and remember it, and apply those lessons for the future, we're destined to get stuck in the same rut and repeat the same mistakes over and over.