

## Glossary

**Torah** – This is the central religious text of Judaism. The book of Exodus teaches that it was given by God to the Jewish people at Mt. Sinai. It contains the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).

**Midrash** – This is a type of rabbinic literature created to help interpret the Bible. Using stories, parables, and legends, the Rabbis sought to fill in perceived gaps in the Bible and thus derive moral insights or laws from the text.

**Mohammed** – Mohammed is considered by Muslims to be the final and most perfect prophet. He was born in Mecca approximately 570 C.E. and was a member of the Quraysh tribe. According to Muslim tradition, he received divine revelation and was the founder of Islam.

**Qu’ran** – This is the central religious text of Islam. Moslems consider it to be the final divine revelation of God. Muslims believe that it was revealed to Mohammed, by the angel Gabriel, over a period of 23 years. In addition to stories unique to the Muslim tradition, the Qu’ran includes some events that are also found in Jewish and Christian scriptures, sometimes retelling these stories in different ways.

**“Stories of the Prophets”** – This is a literary *genre* not a single book. Like Midrash, it is constructed from comments, legends, fables, and commentaries that were passed down orally until they were gathered and recorded in collections. Also like the Midrash, "Prophetic Stories" developed largely in order to fill in the gaps of scripture. The scripture in question is of course the Qur'an, which often references biblical stories or characters without retelling the narrative in detail.