

“Meeting God in friend & stranger”

What is the nature of the Almighty?

One: Jews are monotheistic – this means they only worship one God

Creator: God is the creator of the world and humans. Jews believe they have to look after God’s creation.

Lawgiver: God gave laws to follow – 613 mitzvot, including the 10 commandments.

Judge: God will judge us when we die, the good will be reunited with God.

What is the TaNaKh?

The Tanakh is the same as the Old Testament in the Christian Bible. It is the main holy book for Jews. It is split into three sections:



- TORAH:** contains the law of Moses/the five books of Moses – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- NEVI’IM:** the books of the prophets – the spokespeople of God e.g. Isaiah, Jeremiah.
- KETUVIM:** the books of writings, poetry and songs about God

What are the covenants?

Abrahamic Covenant



“I will give you as many descendants as the stars in the sky” Genesis”

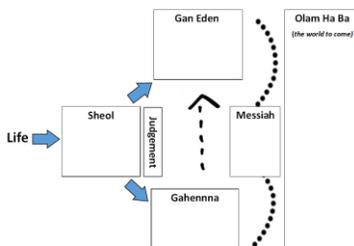
Covenant at Sinai



“All that Hashem has spoken we shall do” Exodus

What do Jews believe about the afterlife?

Orthodox Jews



Reform Jews



- The soul lives on after the death of the body
- God will judge the dead
- The good will be reunited with God in Gan Eden
- The souls that need to be cleansed will go to Gahenna and then be reunited with God
- There will be a physical resurrection at the end of time.

- We don’t know
- This life is more important
- Some believe in reincarnation
- Some believe the soul lives on

Is life more important than the mitzvot?

Jews believe that all life is sacred because it was made my God. Therefore it must be protected at all costs. This is called the Sanctity of Life. Because life is the most important thing, Jews believe that if a life is in danger, they can break the mitzvot. This is called **PIKUACH NAFESH**.

“Live by the rule, don’t die by them” (Talmud)

“To save one life, is to save all mankind” (Talmud)

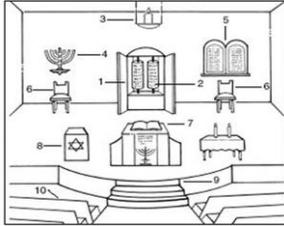


RE – JUDAISM

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What are the features of a synagogue?

The Synagogue is known as the House of Hashem, which means the house of God. Is it used as a house of prayer, study and assembly. In every synagogue, there will be:



- 1) **ARK:** where the Torah scrolls are kept, facing Jerusalem
- 2) **TORAH:** the scrolls which contain the law
- 3) **NER TAMID:** the everlasting light, representing God’s presence
- 4) **MENORAH:** 7 branches representing the creation of the world
- 5) **TEN COMMANDMENTS:** a copy of the laws given to Moses at Mount Sinai
- 7) **BIMAH:** A raised platform for the Bimah to be read from
- 10) **SEATING:** Men & women sit separately - no distractions

What are the Jewish festivals?

Rosh Hashanah

- Jewish new year
- Anniversary of Creation
- Time to say sorry



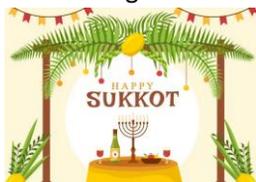
Yom Kippur

- Day of Atonement
- God judges
- Time for forgiveness and repentance



Sukkot

- Celebration of the Tabernacle (first temple)
- Time to give thanks



Shavuot

- Celebration of the giving of the Ten Commandments
- Time to give thanks



What is Shabbat?



Celebrates the Creation of the world. Jews rest on the 7th day just as God did.

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”
—Exodus 20:8

Remembering the Sabbath is one of the Ten Commandments

Jews celebrate Shabbat every week. It starts on Friday night and ends on Saturday night.

Things Jews might do	Things Jews might not do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The woman lights two candles to start Shabbat • Friday night dinner, eat Challah bread • Go to the synagogue on a Saturday morning • Havdallah ceremony to end Shabbat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No work • Not turn on electricity “Do not kindle a fire” (Exodus) • Not drive • No homework

What are the Jewish rites of passage?

BRIT MILAH

- Circumcision ceremony happens at 8 days old
- Links to Abrahamic Covenant
- Physical sign of the everlasting covenant

BAR/BAT MITZVAH: age of responsibility

- Bar Mitzvah – Son of the Commandments (aged 13)
- Bat Mitzvah – Daughter of the Commandments (aged 12)

MARRIAGE

- Man and woman
- Under the Chuppah which represents their new home
- Signing of the Ketubah

MOURNING

- Burial takes place ASAP after death
- **SHIVA:** 7 days of mourning
- **YAHZEIT CANDLE:** Lit on the anniversary of a loved one’s death