

Judaism Beliefs Thread 1— Nature of God

Link to prior : What do you remember about Hinduism/Dharmic religions/ Christianity about beliefs in monotheism?

Key Concepts/words: **THE WHAT**

How do beliefs about Abraham relate to Brit Milah?

How do beliefs about Moses relate to the festivals of Pesach and Sukkot?

How do the Ten Commandments relate to Pesach; the Shema; nature of God; Shabbat; Pikuach Nefesh

Key sources: **THE WHY:**

- ‘You shall be circumcised through the flesh of your foreskin. This shall be the mark of the covenant between Me and you’ Genesis 17 (part of Abrahamic Covenant)
- ‘Proof that I have sent you will come when you get the people out of Egypt. All of you then will become God’s servants on this mountain’ Exodus 3 (part of the covenant with Moses)
- The Ten Commandments given by God to Moses - Exodus 20

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God is one! Jews believe in one God (monotheism). The shema prayer states ‘Hear O Israel the Lord Our God, the Lord is one’. God is believed to be all knowing (omniscient), all powerful (omnipotent) and always existing (omnipresent). Synagogues show this belief by not having statues of any living beings. Some Jews believe the name of God is so special that anything with God’s name must be buried if no longer used. **God as Creator:** Many Jews believe God alone created all life as stated in Genesis, the first book of the Torah. Some Jews believe God literally created the world in six days. Others believe the story should not be taken literally as what is important is the story shows God is creator of all. The weekly festival of Shabbat celebrates creation. As God gave life then the preservation of life Pikuach Nefesh is very important.

God as law-giver: revealed to Moses the duties that Jews should keep, including the Ten Commandments. Through the following of these laws Jews are fulfilling what God wants and forming a relationship with him.

Covenant: Remember the covenants we studied: Abraham/Moses & the Ten commandments.

Abraham: 3 main parts of the covenant between God and Abraham. 1. God called Abraham and his family to the new land of Canaan (often referred to as the Promised Land). 2. God promised Abraham he would make a great nation from him. 3. God promised to bless Abraham and his family. As part of the covenant God gave Abraham the rite of circumcision (Brit Milah).

Moses: considered to be the greatest prophet & saw God face to face/chosen by God to lead Israelites out of slavery in Egypt & this journey is remembered and celebrated at the festivals of Succoth and Pesach (Passover). God promised to be with him in his role. Moses was given the Torah by God on Mount Sinai. Orthodox Jews believe he was also given the Torah and also the oral Torah (commentary of the Torah). Moses formed a covenant with God that as God’s chosen people the Israelites would keep the commandments.

Ten commandments: they should be kept by every Jew and are central to Jewish beliefs and practices. The first four shows the relationship with God and humans and the final six show how people should relate to each other. The Ten Commandments forbid idolatry, blasphemy, adultery, stealing, murder, lying and envy and tell Jews to remember the importance of God, to remember and keep the Sabbath day and to honour parents. Each year there is a Mitzvah Day on which Jews aim to make a positive impact on their local community.

Key symbols



Cross curricular links:
History studies/
Geography/

Shekinah : Used in the Torah to describe God’s dwelling on the earth. Some Jews believe the shekhinah never left the Temple and that is why Israel has a special spirituality. It is believed that through the shekhinah God’s presence can be felt and creates a sense of peace and calm e.g. when Shabbat candles are lit.

Link to future: How do beliefs about the nature of God relate to other areas **of your study?**

Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Pikuach Nefesh, Care of the Environment, worship, Moses

TIMELINE OF LEARNING: Judaism End point assessment—you will be assessed on this content in the end of unit assessment.

Explain why Moses is important in Judaism (8)/ Describe the Abrahamic Covenant (5)/ ‘Keeping the ten commandments is the most important part of Judaism.’ Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (15)

Link to prior : Messiah/Covenant /

Judaism Beliefs Thread 2—Messiah & Mitzvot

Key Concepts/words: THE WHaT: Covenant/Shekinah/Mitzvot/ Messiah/Kosher/Synagogue/ Torah

Key sources: THE WHY

Torah -there are no direct references to the afterlife. Some Jews interpret references to Sheol but the nature of this place is unclear.

'This world is like a lobby before the Olam Ha-Ba. Prepare yourself in the lobby so that you may enter the banquet hall.' Talmud

•Maimonides in his 13 Principles of Judaism refers to the resurrection of the dead one day but puts it in the context of the Messianic age. There are no direct references to the Messianic Age in the Torah so certain verses such as Isaiah 11 1-9 are interpreted

Messiah :There are no direct quotes about the Messiah in the Torah so there are many different beliefs as passages that might be relevant are interpreted with people giving different meanings. Orthodox Jews: a belief in the Messiah is central to their faith. Reform Jews: there is a belief that the Messianic Age can come from the good deeds (mitzvot) that people do to create peace.

Messiah comes from 'Mashiach' meaning 'anointed', This refers to the placing of oil on the head of a king showing they are trusted by God. Many Orthodox Jews pray each day for the coming of the Messiah to bring about the Messianic Age. The coming of the Messiah will bring about the resurrection of the dead and begin the Messianic Age - a future time of peace on earth. Some Jews say there will be an exact date, others say it will be when it is most needed in the world.

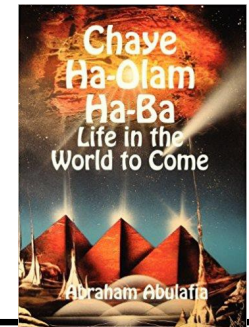
What will the Messiah do? Restore the temple/a new age of peace/ a descendant of David/ bring Jews back to Israel

Mitzvot and free will: Mitzvot means keeping the duties given by God to Moses, doing good deeds and being given an honour (e.g. reading from Torah). The Talmud (Jewish bible) refers to 613 Mitzvot in the Torah and these are represented by the number of knots on the tallit (prayer shawl worn during worship). A Jew today could not keep all 613 Mitzvot, as some are historical, linked to the temple destroyed in 70CE. Mitzvot, like the Ten Commandments, show how to relate to God or to people. Both, however, build a relationship with God. The most important Mitzvot is the treatment of their neighbour.

Mitzvah Day started in Britain in 2008 and is now a global day where Jews and non-Jews wrk together to reduce poverty, care for the environment and care for others. 3 Jewish concepts are really important on the day: 1. Tikkun olam = 2. Gemilut hasadim '3. Tzedakah

Resurrection: Orthodox Jews refer to resurrection daily in their prayers and at funerals. For some this is a bodily and soul resurrection and for others just a soul resurrection. The references to resurrection have been taken out of the prayer books (siddur) for **Reform Judaism** and a belief in resurrection either bodily or through the soul has been rejected.

Key symbols



Cross curricular links:
Humanities studies /



Olam Ha Ba = The afterlife (the world to come). There are no direct references to the nature of an afterlife in the Torah, but there are different beliefs :Some Jews believe there is a life after death and other Jews believe that what lives on is how you remember the person for the good deeds they have done in their life. For most Jews their concern is not what happens after death but what good they do while alive. Jews concentrate on being the best Jew to bring about Olam Ha Ba, and following the Mitzvot well in this life.

God is believed to judge according to how humans have followed the right or wrong inclination and kept the mitzvot. Rosh Hashanah (Day of Judgement) - Jews think about their deeds over the last year. God is a God of justice and mercy and is a judge of how the duties of the Torah are followed. At -Rosh Hashanah God judges every person. God's ways may not be understandable but they are considered to be just.

Link to future:

The Afterlife/ synagogue

TIMELINE OF LEARNING

Can you sequence your learning?

Link to prior

Judaism beliefs thread 3— Shabbat and life on earth

Shabbat : It is a day of spiritual rest or renewal. Begins Friday sunset. Ends nightfall Saturday. **Follows the Torah:** 'Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.' (2 things here – note that) /**Why?** To remember the freedom from slavery in Egypt & celebration of creation. Most important festival for Jews. You can forget your weekday worries. /Reform & Orthodox Jews will have different views on the types of work that cannot be done during Shabbat. **Orthodox:** no work at all, even carrying items or pushing items (wheelchair/pushchair). Look up Manchester's special area called 'Eruv' Food is prepared beforehand/services in synagogue/The father returns from the synagogue & at nightfall, the woman in the home lights the 2 white candles. A blessing is said over 2 loaves of bread: symbolises the double portion of manna in the desert. Kiddush prayer is said over the cup of wine. It is a happy family meal. Saturday morning: Shabbat service for the family at the synagogue. Orthodox Jews would walk there. Jews might also have a technology free day. Saturday nightfall: family light the Havdalah candle to say goodbye to Shabbat/ spice box to symbolise the hope of a sweet week ahead.

Key Concepts/words: **THE WHAT**
BIMAH
ARON
HAKODESH/TALLIT/TEFILLIN

Key sources: **THE WHY**
'You shall be circumcised through the flesh of your foreskin. This shall be the mark of the covenant between Me and you' Genesis 17 (part of Abrahamic Covenant)
• 'Proof that I have sent you will come when you get the people out of Egypt. All of you then will become God's servants on this mountain' Exodus 3 (part of the covenant with Moses)
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Synagogue worship: What is the Aron Hakodesh? /What and where are the Torah scrolls? /What is the ner tamid?/ What is the bimah? /Where do the women sit and why?

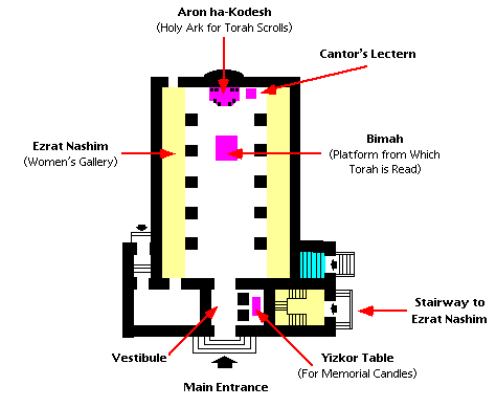
REFORM AND ORTHODOX

Pikuach Nefesh : In Judaism, the emphasis is on life, not on death. Humans should respect this life and live it to the full. Saving of life should be a priority, so Jews set aside certain Mitzvot in order to save a life. This is called '**Pikuach Nefesh**': the principle in Jewish law that the preservation of human life overrides virtually any other rule (mitvot). When the life of a specific person is in danger, almost any command from the Torah becomes inapplicable. For instance, a Jewish relief worker would work during Shabbat to preserve life.

TIMELINE OF LEARNING

Origins of the universe—Good and Evil—Judaism part 2 Worship & Practice End point assessment – you will be assessed on...Beliefs and Teachings

Key symbols:



Cross curricular links :
Holocaust studies/PSHEE

Link to future: Making links with Origins and Meaning and Jewish beliefs on creation stories/original sin