

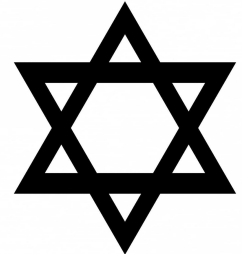
## History/background Judaism info:

Maimonides created 13 principal Torah beliefs in the 12th cent, observed by orthodox sects

UK has 5th largest jewish population globally

Shepardic Jews: of Middle Eastern descent

Ashkenazi Jews: of Eastern European descent



Torah: Pentateuch, 1st 5 Books of Moses

Midrash: Rabbinic commentary on Tenakh

Tenakh: Jewish Bible, trilogy: Torah, Nevi'im & Ketuvim

Talmud: oral law

## Sects of Judaism:

Orthodox: literalists who rigidly observe Abrahamic & Mosaic law

Reform: more progressive beliefs, religion adapts with society, only ethical laws are binding

Secular: ancestral Jews (on mother's side) but don't practise

Diaspora: Roman & Babylonian induced, saw the emergence of reform Jews in Europe

## Differences in practise:

Orthodox (vs Reform) have Hebrew & Yiddish service (not English), Bat Chayil instead of Bat Mitzvah for girls, women aren't rabbis, men & women parted in Synagogues

## Nature of God:

**ONE:** central monotheistic belief at core of Abrahamic religions

Abraham condemned idolatry in his father's idol store, seeing only one God as almighty

Reverence: use of Hashem or G\_d

Maimonides: 'no language exists capable of expressing the uniqueness of God'

Halevi: 'if i understood him, I'd be him'

Shema creed affirms belief in ONE God

'The Lord is one' - Deuteronomy

No statues in worship, for it's heretical & idolatrous



**CREATOR:** upholds creationism & God's love for man

Genesis: 'God created the heavens & the earth', 'it was GOOD', 'let us make man in our image'

Orthodox perceive Genesis as literal, not allegorical

'Blessed he who spoke and the world existed' - affirms intelligent design belief

'Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy'



**LAW GIVER:** gives merit to observance of mitzvot

Mount Sinai deliverance of Mosaic Decalogue (ethical, ceremonial & civil Torah law) formed societal framework in Exodus

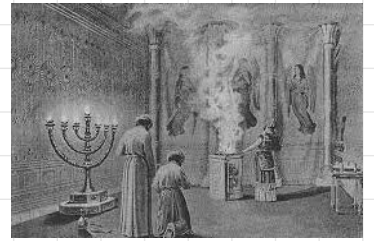
**JUDGE:** reinforces observance of mitzvot (crafts basis of a Jew's morality) with the end goal of paradise

'Lord is slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love' - Psalm 103

Rosh Hashanah observed as period of atonement prior to sealing of Book of life on Yom Kippur - denotes God's just & merciful nature



## Shekinah:



God's divine presence, his dwelling on earth

Concentrated in the Western Wall, Israel- for it descended into exile after the temple's destruction

Denotes feminine characteristics

Torah evidence: Exodus 3 burning bush appears to Moses,  
At Temple Mount upon receiving mosaic Decalogue: 'a pillar of smoke by day, a flame by night'- Exodus

**Messiah** (Meshaich): (Orthodox): his coming ignites an era of peace & political stability during the messianic age that the 'anointed one' will cultivate, signals end of the world

Belief in Messiah is 1 of Maimonides' 13 principles of faith

Criteria of Messiah: rebuild Israeli temple destroyed in 70CE, a direct descendant of King David, reunion of Jews in the Promised Land

Potential Messiah in every generation who will come in crisis

(Reform): believe in 'Olam ha ba' (world 2 come), messianic age induced by man, through a push on global peace

Messiah is yet to come, rejection of Jesus as doesn't fit criteria & no messianic age (era of good & change) generated after his birth

17th cent: Tzvi was a fake messiah, who upon persecution from an Ottoman Sultan, converted to Islam

## Abrahamic Covenant:

Abraham= patriarch of Judaism & concept of monotheism who refuted paganism & idolatry & loved God completely so, in spite of being asked to sacrifice his only son: Isaac (later replaced by a lamb\*)

God called out to Abraham, commanding him to leave Ur & his family, in promise of: 'as many descendants as the stars in the sky' & a great jewish nation being formed, with him as figurehead in the Promised Land

3 terms of covenant:

Descendants

Promised land

Circumcision



The rite of circumcision expresses complete devotion to God & compliance with the covenant,

It takes place within 8 days of birth, a mohel performs the surgery in front of a minyan upon the boy being seated on Elijah's chair during the Brit Milah

\*Custom of lamb sacrifice = origins of 'scapegoat' phrase

## Mosaic covenant:

Moses: proclaimed (by Maimonides) as the 'father of all prophets' for 'no other prophet had arisen in Israel who knew God face to face' - Deuteronomy, 1st rabbi & documenter of Torah teaching (1st rabbi)

Covenant:

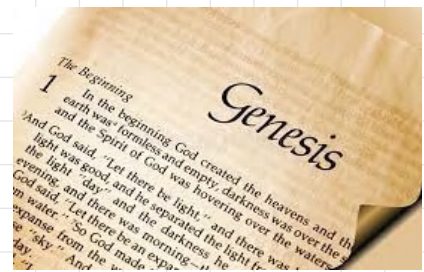
Israelite liberation

Promised Land & 10 commandments

Life: born an Israelite but raised in an Egyptian court, was banished after killing a master beating a slave, called 2 free the Israelites by God through his shekinah presence in a burning bush, 10 plagues sent to curse Egyptian Pharaohs (last entailed killing of 1st born males), parted the Red Sea post liberation & received the Ark of the Covenant containing the Mosaic Decalogue within after reaching the Promised Land

Significance: receiving Decalogue= formed societal framework as the first rabbi, liberated Jews after millennia of hardship (commemorated on Sukkot & Pesach), established jewish identity in light of relentless persecution





## Life on Earth:

Preserve life due to its sacred nature, for man was created in God's likeness in Genesis, mitzvot form basis of 'tree of life', 'those who uphold it are blessed' - Proverbs

Object abortion (although refute life being made at point of conception), in line with psalm 139, for God 'knitted you in your mother's womb' & 'breathed a pure soul into me'

'Whoever destroys a single life is considered as if he has destroyed the entire world' - Talmud

## Pikuach nefesh:

Loophole, can break all but 3 (idolatory, adultery & incest) mitzvot for the sake of saving a life

'LIVE BY THE TORAH, DON'T DIE BY IT' - Talmud

## Free will:

'Without your consent you were born & without your consent you will die' - Psalms

Fate being sealed on Yom Kippur alludes to fatalism

But

Jews believe we have 2 inclinations on how to act: Yetzer ha ra & Yetzer ha tov (to do bad/to do good)

& we don't inherit Original Sin

Mitzvot: guide or guidelines? Non compliance with Mitzvot = Gehenna so is man really free, like suggested in Genesis?



## Afterlife:

Focus on the present, not Olam ha ba

Little reference to afterlife in Torah but Mishnah proclaims:

'prepare yourself in the lobby so you may enter the banquet hall'



**Sheol:** realm of purification/ abode of the dead

The pit, Psalm 88 identifies torment of soul, longing for God

Likened to Hades

**Gan Eden:** terrestrial paradise

A metaphysical place for the righteous, who studied & lived by Torah teaching

Referenced in Genesis

**Gehenna:** damnation

Place of fire & anguish of the soul, tortured by demons created upon the breaking of each mitzvot

Takes inspiration from the Valley of Hinnom cursed by Jeremiah as the site of child sacrifice

**Resurrection:** Nahmandies taught bodily resurrection would occur prior to olam ha ba (most righteous will enjoy a spiritual, bodiless existence in God's presence)

Soul is at rest under the wings of the Shekinah

Some believe in resurrection during the messianic age of just the soul (reform)

So no cremation or autopsies

## MITZVOT:



613 duties/good deeds

Comprised of: moral, ceremonial & civil law, with subsections dealing with: mans relationship with God & with each other in terms of justice (no false testimonies), honour (family), decency (murder & theft)

Customary to observe mosaic Decalogue but other mitzvot obsolete e.g. regarding the temple destroyed in 70BCE & 'keeping the Sabbath holy' with no labour/ electronics- clashes with contemporary life

316 tzitzit on tallit during worship

Ultimately: 'loving thy neighbour' - Leviticus = forms basis of other mitzvot so leads to attainment of good Godly relations

Tikkum Olam (caring for the world by not destroying it)= observed on Mitzvah day (focus on almsgiving)

**Pikuach nefesh:** can break all but 3 commandments to preserve life

'LIVE BY THE TORAH, DON'T DIE BY IT'- Talmud





## Worship:

A Minyan (10 men) is formed during worship in Synagogues (communal prayer is less selfish & more spiritual)

Sabbath services unite communities, consisting of: Kaddish, Shema & Amidah prayers

## Worship at home:

Creates a spiritual pathway between families & God, reinforcing the unifying nature of faith

## How?

Siddur prayer book is used, homes = sanctuaries to inspire faith in coming generations, Model ani prayer recited upon awaking- thanking God for the gift of life, Shema creed is recited thrice daily, Mezuzahs are affixed on door posts & kissed as a sign of respect (have Shema scrolls enclosed within them)

Types of prayer: thanksgiving, praise, requests e.g. Amidah (standing prayer) is 18 blessings divided into 3 sections, concluding with: 'May God bring peace to us & all the people of Israel, Amen'

## Sabbath:



Day of spiritual rest & renewal, from Fri sunset to Sat nightfall

'Remember the Sabbath & keep it holy' – Exodus

Commemorates creationism within Genesis, reinforcing God as divine creator & recollects Jewish history

## Customs:

Women light 2 candles to welcome the Sabbath (rabbinically mandated law)

Challah loaves are consumed (braided strands form 12 humps, symbolic of the 12 tribes of Israel)

Kiddush blessings (acknowledgment of sacred nature of the Sabbath & its observance)

Synagogue services are attended

Traditional to not partake in labour in honour of the 7th day of creation, in which God rested

Day devoted to God & break from hectic, technology infiltrated modern lives, but some professionals e.g. Doctors can work, in line with Pikuach Nefesh

## Prayer aids:

**Kippah:** identity, humility & respect symbol, additionally, recognises fear of God (who is above man)



**Tallit:** 4 cornered garment with 613 tzitzit (symbolic of mitzvot)



**Tefillin:** 2 leather boxes, bound to the heart & the head (God is source of love & wisdom, his presence is bound to both inextricably for he spoke & the world came to being), Shema scrolls enclosed within



‘Imprint these commandments upon your hearts... bind them on your foreheads... impress them on your children’- Deuteronomy

Mishnah: women cannot wear tefillin, Maimonides: women cannot recite blessings - orthodox comply but reform allow women 2 wear prayer aids

## Synagogue:

Functions as a house of Prayer, Worship & Assembly

Beit Tefilah: minyans formed in worship

Beit Midrash: study of Torah (as Bar Mitzvah preparation)

Declining Synagogue attendance:

Lack of accessibility by foot on Shabbat

Lack rabbis

Anti-semitism vandalism



Orthodox synagogues:

Men & women parted to avoid distraction (women & kids sit in Women's gallery), only men are rabbis (appreciate gender roles & their traditional implications), only men wear prayer aids & have bar mitzvahs

## Features:

Exteriors reflect architecture of culture of country, no statues as no idolatry

Interior:

Aron Hakadesh= ark holds Torah scrolls (open during Rosh Hashanah), Torah scrolls (most sacred feature), Ner Tamid (everlasting light, symbolic of Menorah in Jerusalem & Shekinah), Bimah (raised platform from which rabbi reads scripture)

## Rosh Hashanah:

Jewish New year

'Days of awe'



Given 10 days to atone prior to Yom Kippur, in which Book of Life is sealed (good deeds weighted against bad) to determine one's earthly fate

Commemorates creationism & God's nature of being the ONE ultimate: judge & creator & law giver

## Customs:

Sweet fruit consumed, symbolic of good fortune in new year

Challah loaf is circular, denoting cyclical nature of year  
100 blowings of Shofar horn (mimics sounds of tears as soul cries out to God)

Tashlikh (crumbs thrown into river) 2 cast sins away

'10 days of returning'

## Yom Kippur:

Day of ATONEMENT

'Sabbath of Sabbaths'



Torah (has absolute authority as God's word) commands observance of Yom Kippur

Marks sealing of Book of Life in which one's fate is determined from (based on a weighing of good deeds vs the bad)

Period of self-denial in 5 areas, inclusive of sexual restraint, a 25hr fast, no leather or perfume

Story of Jonah: festival epitomises forgiveness as being in reach for everyone

Doors of Ark are open = Doors of PARADISE (Gan Eden) are open

'High holy days' = most significant festival in Jewish Calendar (especially for reform sects as they advance in their PERSONAL relationship with Hashem & declared most important by Jewish authorities)

Festival closed with blowing of shofar horn & Kol Nidre prayer





## Sukkot:

Harvest festival which commemorates 40 year journey of Israelites through desert with Moses in Exodus

Sukkahs are built (tabernacles) which have open roofs to see the stars & which allow for effect of weather ('thatched huts' - Leviticus), denotes vulnerability before God & reliance on his power to protect his 'chosen people'

Lulav, Myrtle, Willow (actions, life, speech) palms waved in all directions, symbolic of Shekinah presence, all parts (symbolisms) have the chance to distort a Jew's morals, but when acting goodly in unison they constitute as a fulfilment of the mitzvot

Etrog lemon eaten (symbolism of heart & love for the lord)

No labour is permitted on 1st & 2nd days of the week-long festival that commences after Yom Kippur

## Pesach:

Commemorates Israelite liberation from slavery under Egyptian rule by Moses

In EXODUS

'Festival of freedom', for the angel of death passed over the homes of the worthy (marked with lambs blood, who were scapegoated)

Customs:

SEDER meal eaten, dish symbolism:

Lambs bone (sacrifice),

Bitter herbs (bitterness of slavery),

Salt water (tears of slaves),

Matzah bread (unleavened, for Jews had little time to escape to the Promised Land),

Egg (new life under obedience to the Mosaic Decalogue)



Door is opened, awaiting the prophet: Elijah to announce the coming of the Messiah

Rituals:

Birth ceremonies:



Brit Milah events:

Boy named (ancestral names chosen by father– Hebrew name creates identity)

Circumcision 8 days after birth of boy in accordance with Abrahamic covenant

Circumcision:

A mohel carries out the surgery on the boy seated on the Sandek's lap who is seated on Elijah's chair in front of a minyan

Confirms child's acceptance of Abrahamic covenant, which he has 'entered into', symbolic of complete obedience & devotion to the Lord before the boy follows mitzvot

Objections to circumcision made on the basis of:

it being a violation of human rights due to its non-consensual nature but parental responsibility accounts for boy's consent on his behalf

## COMING OF AGE RITUALS



### Bar Mitzvah:

Occurs when a boy is 13 years old, making him 'son of commandments'

Allows for boy to: join a minyan, take full responsibility for following mitzvot & reading Torah= completes Abrahamic covenant entered into during Brit Milah (see previous page)

Boy is called up to Bimah to read Torah scripture with Tefilin on & celebrations occur as boy is part of Jewish community at his own volition

### Bat Chayil:

Occurs when a girl is 12 in ORTHODOX sects (no Bat Mitzvah as genders have different roles)

Means 'daughter of worth'/'daughter of commandments'

Girl gives presentation from her religious studies & is responsible for observing the mitzvot but cannot read Torah as women don't have active Synagogue roles (more so at home)

### Bat Mitzvah:

Occurs when a girl is 12 in REFORM sects (more progressive so girl can have similar ceremony to boy)

Girl reads from Siddur/Torah



## Matrimony:

Allows couples to be 'fruitful and multiply', in line with Mitzvot

Man & Woman becomes 'one flesh'

Kiddushin= betrothal is a blessing & gift from God

Nisuin= finalisation of the marriage

Ketubah: contract (deals with legal implications e.g. assets & devotion between couple to honour vows, written in Aramaic)

Chuppah: wedding canopy, symbolic of the home the family intends to build

Ring places on index finger (vessels connect to heart):

'You are consecrated to me by the means of this ring... according to the rituals of Moses & Israel'

Stomping of glass = fragility of marriage, requires effort to uphold

## Mourning rituals:

### Immediately after Death:

Make tear in clothing, denoting grief & loss = kriah

At death, Shema recited

Chevra Kadisha (charity dealing with last rites) prep the body for burial (acts as earthly vessel for the soul)

Onam (main mourner) accompanies body till funeral

Coffin is plain (equality before God in death)

Kaddish done & psalms said



### Post-Funeral:

Shiva: week-long mourning period

Terms: mirrors covered, no parties/music: a 'person's soul is in the candle of the Lord'

### 1 year later after Death:

Tomb stone created & lay, stones set next to tomb (Abraham used stones to mark site of his wife Sarah's burial)

Avelut: mourning commences for 1 year after loss of parent

Yahrzeit ceremonies held (candles burn for 24hrs to symbolise departed soul)



## Daily life:

Kosher dietary laws observed (from Leviticus) by orthodox sects e.g. meat & dairy consumed separate, 6hrs apart, Treifar = not kosher

Tenakh teachings = central to jewish life

Torah = 5 Books of Moses

Nevi'im = book of prophets & history

Ketuvim = holy writings eg psalms

Talmud = combo of Mishnah (documents oral tradition during Roman persecution) & Gemara (commentaries on law & worship)

Yeshiva: schools that study Talmud & Torah, key to preserve faith in future generations, for the religion lacks jewish converts

Worship at home & in Synagogues is of proportional significance, but home worship takes precedent- showing devotion to Hashem day-to-day!

