

'Moses is the most important prophet in Judaism'

Agree:

He was called by Hashem (whose shekinah presence revealed itself through a burning bush) to enter into a covenant agreeing to: liberate the Israelites from Egyptian slavery (with the help of the 10 plagues) & to deliver the Mosaic Decalogue on Mount Sinai, after parting the Red Sea to get to the Promised land. In receiving the Ark of the covenant (which contained the 10 commandments), Moses formed the 1st Jewish societal framework.

He helped establish a Jewish identity after relentless persecution, the Exodus story is commemorated on Pesach & the Israelite's journey is remembered on Sukkot.

Deuteronomy: 'no other prophet had arisen in Israel who knew God face to face' & Maimonides said Moses is the 'father of all prophets'.

Disagree: Abraham is the most important

He is the patriarch of Judaism, he refuted idolatry & paganism in his father's workshop, establishing the 1st monotheistic faith (which laid the foundations for Christianity & Islam).

God called out to Abraham, commanding him to leave Ur to form a covenant with him, entailing:

The promise of DESCENDANTS: 'as many descendants as the stars in the sky'

The Promise land: 'the land of milk and honey'

The rite of circumcision for all Jewish born boys at 8 days old.

The Brit Milah ceremony has prevalence amongst Orthodox sects: a mohel performs the surgery in front of a minyan, upon the baby boy being seated on Elijah's chair; it's a symbol of Jewish identity & complete devotion to God.

Points for the conclusion:

Jews being acclaimed the 'chosen people', giving them rights to the Promised land has contributed to Israeli-Palestinian tensions.

Abraham founded the faith, Moses established it.

'Rosh Hashanah is the most important festival'

Agree: it's Jewish new year, entitled the 'days of awe'

It's a period of 10 days in which one can atone for their sins before the Book of life is sealed, on Yom Kippur- the determiner of one's fate

Customs include:

The consumption of sweet fruit, symbolic of a sweet fortune in the upcoming year

The challah loaf; it being circular denotes the cyclical nature of the year

100 blowings of the Shofar horn which mimics the sound of tears as they cry out to God

Tashlikh (crumbs thrown into a river) to cast sins away

It commemorates creationism and God's nature of being a creator in the '10 days of returning'

Disagree: Yom Kippur is the most important, proclaimed 'the Sabbath of Sabbaths' as the day of ATONEMENT

The Torah (which has absolute authority) commands the observance of Yom Kippur which marks the sealing of the Book of life, the determiner of one's fate- adhering to God's nature of being a judge (by balancing good deeds against the bad- facilitated by an observance of the mitzvot)

It's a period of self denial in 5 areas:

No food or water: a 25hr fast

No leather

No perfume

Abstinence

The doors of the Ark are open (the doors to the paradise of Gan Eden)

The story of Jonah epitomises forgiveness being in reach of everyone

It's marked as the 'high holy days', being declared as the most important by Jewish authorities

It promotes personal relations with Hashem

Disagree: Sukkot is the most important

A harvest festival which commemorates the 40 year journey of the Israelites through the desert, lead by Moses in Exodus

Customs:

Sukkahs are built which have open roofs to see the stars, Leviticus commands 'thatched roofs', denoting vulnerability before God & reliance on his power to protect his 'chosen people'

Lulav, myrtle & willow are waved in all directions, symbolic of the shekinah presence

Etrog (lemon) symbolises the heart & love for Hashem

No hard labour is permitted on the 1st & 2nd days of the week, the festival commences after Yom Kippur

Disagree: Pesach is the most important

It commemorates the liberation of Israelites from Egyptian slavery under Moses in Exodus

It's known as the 'festival of freedom', for the angel of death passed over the homes of the worthy (marked with the blood of sacrificed lambs)

Customs:

Seder meal eaten, including:

A lambs bone (sacrifice),

Bitter herbs (the bitterness of slavery),

Salt water (the tears of slaves),

Matzah bread (unleavened bread as Jews had little time to escape to the Promised land),

Egg (new life under obedience to the Mosaic Decalogue)

A door is left open, awaiting the prophet: Elijah to announce the coming of the Messiah