



Religious Studies

Y9 Summer 1: Judaism Beliefs

	Keyword	Meaning
1	Synagogue	House of assembly; building for Jewish public prayer, study and assembly.
2	Shekhinah	the place where God's presence rests and can be felt. For example on Mt Sinai.
3	Shabbat	Day of spiritual renewal and rest. Beginning at sunset on Friday and closing at nightfall on Saturday.
4	Kosher	Means "fit" or "proper". Foods that are permitted to be eaten according to Leviticus 11. It is also used to refer to the purity of ritual objects such as Torah scrolls.
5	Torah	The five books of Moses [Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy]. Regarded as the holiest books of the Tenakh
6	Mitzvot	The term has a mix of meanings. It is often used to refer to duties {such as the 613 in the Torah} and good deeds. "Commandments".
7	Messiah	The anointed One who Jews believe will bring in a new era or age for humankind. This will include rebuilding the Temple and bringing in an age of Universal Peace.
8	Covenant	A promise or agreement between two parties. Covenants were made between God with Noah, Abraham and Moses.

Jews believe in a "Messianic Age" and greatly look forward to it. It is a time when the world will be at peace and there will be complete harmony. **THERE IS NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO IT IN THE TORAH!**

HOWEVER...scriptures have been interpreted to decide what it might be like (e.g. Isaiah talks of a time when the "wolf will live with the lamb"

Jews believe that Shekhinah accompanied them on the Exodus journey and was sometimes imaged as a pillar of fire. On experiencing the presence of Shekhinah, many Jews speak of feeling empowered, content, blessed and peaceful.



The 613 Mitzvot: "Mitzvot" is a complex idea, meaning "commandments" (God's Law) and the doing of good deeds but also being given a great honour (such as reading from the Torah. There are 613 mitzvot in the Torah, given to Moses on Mount Sinai.

1

The Shema

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Genesis 12:1-13

"land" "seed" "blessing"



GOD

- 1: Do not worship any other gods
- 2: Do not make any idols
- 3: Do not misuse the name of God
- 4: Keep the Sabbath holy

MAN

- 5: Honour your father & mother
- 6: Do not murder
- 7: Do not commit adultery
- 8: Do not steal
- 9: Do not lie
- 10: Do not covet

Jews don't spend much time considering the afterlife!

Why?

- It is more important to live THIS life in a way that is pleasing to God to prepare for whatever is to come
- It is not for humans to understand the ways of God!

All Jews believe that this world should be our main focus and should be a preparation for the world to come. The following quotes from the Talmud (teachings of the rabbi's passed down through generations) highlight this focus on life rather than death...

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

"This world is like the eve of Shabbat, and the Olam Ha-Ba is like the Shabbat. He who prepares on the eve of Shabbat will have food to eat on Shabbat"

Messiah

משיח

Mah-she-AKH

"Whoever destroys a single life is considered as if he had destroyed the whole world, and whomever saves a single life as if he had saved the whole world"

Talmud

Judaism teaches that people are NOT born sinful...but born with natural ways to act (inclinations / tendencies):

YETZER HA TOV ~ The inclination or urge to do good actions

YETZER HA RA ~ The inclination of urge to do evil actions

A person is born with them in equal balance, but the more good or bad actions we do, the more the balance shifts!

There is no DEVIL ~ it is the yetzer ha ra within everyone that creates evil!

613