

Jewish Beliefs

Beliefs

CHOSEN PEOPLE

- Jews are the "chosen people"
- God chose the Jewish people for the special responsibility of receiving the Torah and observing all of its commandments and good deeds and passing the special ethical messages of the Torah to the rest of the world

Beliefs

MESSIAH

- Both Judaism and Christianity believe in a Messiah
- Hebrew word - "mashiach" or "anointed one"
- Jews believe the Messiah will be a human being, a descendant of King David, who will bring complete peace to the world and everyone will recognize and worship one God.
- Jews also believe that the Messiah will gather all Jews to the land of Israel, the Temple will be rebuilt, and there will be a resurrection of the dead

Beliefs

MICHOVAHIM

- Centre on the idea of covenant with God.
- God is omnipotent and the creator of everything.
- God governs the universe with justice and fairness.
- Nothing happens without God.
- Humanity has an obligation to worship God.
- God is immortal and indestructible.
- God is One.

How do Jews Honour God?

- Life is to be treated as an ongoing covenant with God.
- God created commandments to help people keep covenant.
- People demonstrate their devotion to God through study of the Torah, prayer, and good deeds (mitzvot).
- Act of performing a good deed = mitzvah.
- Mitzvah is a commandment from God.
- Come from Hebrew word for "to act ethically."
- 613 positive "do" commandments and 365 negative "do not" commandments.

Mitzvot

Jewish beliefs are structured around doing mitzvot (commandments) singular form mitzvah

EXAMPLES:
Prayer: obligated to pray certain prayer 3 x a day
Tzedakah: obligated to give at least 10-15% of income to charity

Kashrut: dietary laws in order to sanctify Jews to proper treatment of animals
Shabbat: from sundown on Friday night until dark on Saturday night - time to rest. Symbolic of God's 7th day of rest after creating the world. Includes special meal. Refrain from cooking, sleeping, electricity, sewing, cleaning, writing, or anything creative.

Who are the Jews?

- Jew = person either born Jewish or converts to Judaism.
- Jewish heritage defines membership.
- As long as one parent is Jewish, the child is considered to be Jewish.
- Conversion to Judaism = gent.
- Christians that profess knowledge of Judaism, assist Jewish beliefs, demonstrate a will to act ethically, show connection with Jewish people.

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Beliefs

MONOTHEISM

- Centre on the idea of oneness with God.
- God is compassionate and the creator of everything.
- God governs the universe with justice and mercy.
- Nothing happens without God.
- Having faith in oneness to worship God.
- God is immortal and indivisible.
- God is One.

How do Jews Honour God?

- Life is to be treated as an ongoing covenant with God.
- God revealed commandments to help people keep covenant.
- People demonstrate their devotion to God through study of the Torah, prayer, and good deeds.
- Act of performing a good deed = mitzvah (charity).
- Mitzvah is a commandment from God.
- Gives people direction on how to live ethically.
- Bible contains 613 mitzvot.
- 248 positive, "do" commandments and 365 negative "do not" commandments.

Mitzvot

Jewish beliefs are structured around (commandments) singular form: mitzvah

- EXAMPLES:
- Prayer: obligated to pray certain times
 - Tzedakah: obligated to give at least 10% of income to charity
 - Kashrut: dietary laws in order to maintain treatment of animals
 - Shabbat: from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday - time to rest, time to create the world.
 - Refrain from cooking, shopping, cleaning, writing, or anything that is considered work.

Who are the Jews?

- Jew = person either born Jewish or converts to Judaism.
- Jewish heritage follows matrilineal line.
- As long as one parent is Jewish, the child is considered to be Jewish.
- Conversion to Judaism = giyur.
- Candidates must reveal knowledge of Judaism, confirm Jewish beliefs, demonstrate a will to act ethically, show connection with Jewish people.

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