

Key word	Definition
Abraham	<i>Founder of the Jewish religion</i>
Covenant	<i>Promise or agreement</i>
Kosher	<i>Permitted; food that is allowed</i>
Mitzvot	<i>The 613 commandments from God in the Torah</i>
Monotheism	<i>Belief in only one God</i>
Moses	<i>God's messenger who he used to rescue his people from slavery in Egypt</i>
Orthodox Jew	<i>More traditional Jew that sticks closely to the Torah</i>
Reform Jew	<i>More modern Jew that thinks Judaism should be relevant to people today</i>
Shabbat	<i>Jewish day of rest and worship to God</i>
Synagogue	<i>Jewish place of meeting and worship</i>
Torah	<i>Jewish holy scrolls.</i>

1. The history of Judaism

- Judaism began when **God made a covenant** (promise) to a man called **Abraham**.
- This happened **4000** years ago.
- God promised Abraham that his **descendants would become the holy nation of Israel**.



1. God gave Abraham and Sarah a son called Isaac.



2. God rescued his people from slavery in Egypt using his servant Moses



3. God spoke to Moses on Mt Sinai and gave Israel the Mitzvot so they could worship him as he wanted.



4. King Solomon built the first temple for God in Jerusalem. This was eventually destroyed by the Romans.

1. What do Jews believe about God?

The Shema – the most important Jewish prayer

“Hear O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is One.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength”

- Holy – *“be holy because I am holy”*

2. What authority do Jews follow?

- **Torah** – direct words of God from Mt Sinai
- **Talmud** – oral guidance passed down over history
- **Human leaders** - local rabbis who are experts on the Torah
- **Bet Din** - Jewish court of 3 respected rabbis

3. Jewish worship

- Have a personal relationship with God. They pray to him and he listens. Can't escape his presence.
- Jews worship in a synagogue.
- Weekly worship happens on Shabbat
- The synagogue contains the Torah scrolls which are read and taught
- RJ – services in English and Hebrew, men and women sit together
- OJ – Service in Hebrew, men and women sit separately

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4. Differences within Judaism

- **Orthodox Jews** – follow the Torah strictly because they believe *“every law is binding”*
- The Torah is the direct word of God
- **Reform Jews** – want Judaism to be relevant for people today
- Think the Torah *“is a human creation”*
- Keep the moral laws but not ritual or food laws

6. Jewish rites of passage

- **Brit Millah** – covenant of the cutting
- Circumcision of boys 8 days old
- A sign in the flesh they are one of God’s people
- **Simchat Bat** – joy of the daughter
- Naming ceremony for new born girls
- **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** – son/daughter of the commandment

5. Jewish laws

- Everything a Jew does can be seen as worship to God.
- **Laws on Shabbat** – day should be kept special. Do no work. Obeying the 4th commandment.
- Friday night to Saturday night.
- Celebration starts in the **home** – **woman** of the home lights shabbat candle.
- **Family** meal where father blesses children and tells stories of Jewish history
- OJ – very strict on what classes as “work”
- **Laws on food – KOSHER**
- Meat and dairy not eaten together
- Pork is unclean
- No blood to be in any food
- OJ – laws given to see obedience. They stick to them.
- RJ – see food laws as outdated

6. Jewish Festivals

The 5 major Jewish holidays are Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, Sukkot, Passover, and the Sabbath.