

What is Judaism?

Judaism began as early as the 8th century BCE as the religion of the small nation of the Hebrews. Through thousands of years of suffering, persecution, dispersion, and occasional victory, has continued to be a profoundly influential religion and culture.

Today, 14 million people identify themselves as Jews, and nearly 3.5 billion others follow belief systems directly influenced by Judaism (including Christianity, Islam, and the Bah'ai Faith). Modern Judaism is a complex phenomenon that incorporates both a nation and a religion, and often combines strict adherence to ritual laws with a more liberal attitude towards religious belief. Judaism is one of the oldest religions in the world. Their sacred text, the Torah, teaches several doctrines - such as those about God, the Messiah, human beings, and the universe - making beliefs very important to Jews.

Fundamental Values of Jews

The 13 principles of Judaism:

1. Believe in God, who is perfect in every way, eternal and the causes of all that exists. All other beings depend upon God for their existence.
2. God has absolute and unparalleled unity.
3. God is incorporeal-- without a body.
4. God existed prior to all else.
5. God should be the only object of worship and praise.
6. Prophets and prophecies exists.
7. Moses was the greatest prophet who ever lived. No prophet who lived or will live could comprehend God more than Moses
8. The Torah is from heaven. The Torah we have today is the Torah that God gave to Moses at Sinai.
9. The Torah will never be abrogated, nothing will be added to it or subtracted from it; God will never give another Law.
10. God knows the actions of humans and is not neglectful of them.
11. God rewards those who obey the commands of the Torah and punishes those who violate its prohibitions.
12. The days of the Messiah will come
13. The dead will be resurrected.



How Holocaust survivors survived: They were cunning, brave, daring, and took many risks. Many of them sacrificed their own lives to save hundreds of others. Others used luck or previous experience they had, otherwise they would have been killed.

What are notable traditions and holidays celebrated by the Jewish people?

Hanukkah, also known as Chanukah, lasts eight days. It's one of the most well known Jewish holidays because of its time of occurrence, which happens around the time of Christmas. It is commonly mistaken as a Jewish Christmas, which is ironic because the origins of the holiday was to fight against assimilation and suppression of their religion. The holiday is less significant compared to other Jewish holidays.



Rosh Hashanah, which is lesser known than Hanukkah, has much more significance. The literal translation is "beginning the year". This is the Jewish New Year, also known by its biblical name: Yom Teruah, or "day of shouting/blasting". This holiday lasts one or two days. A tradition similar to the American new year is making resolutions. The people plan out the year to become better versions of themselves.

The most important holiday of the Jewish year is Yom Kippur. It happens on the tenth day of Tishri, which is the seventh Jewish month. The translation means "Day of Atonement". The holiday is quite literally the translation. On this day, one is to atone for the sins of the past year. It lasts 25 hours, and people are usually not required to go to work.

Five days after Yom Kippur is Sukkot. Quite unlike Yom Kippur, Sukkot is perhaps one of the most joyous holidays celebrated by the Jewish. It is one of the three pilgrimage festivals, and has a dual significance just like the others. Sukkot has both historical and agricultural significance. It commemorates the 40 day period during which the "children of Israel" were wandering in the desert. It's also a harvest festival.

Another one of the pilgrimage festivals is Passover. It is also known as Pesach. The two significances of Passover are to celebrate when their God passed over the houses of the Jews when he was slaying the firstborns of Egypt. It also for the sacrificial offering of a lamb that was made in the Jewish main Temple.

The last of the Jewish pilgrimage holidays is Shavu'ot, known as the Festival of Weeks. It celebrates the first time when fruits were harvested and brought into their holy Temple. It was also when they gave the Torah - one of the five books of Moses - at Mount Sinai.

How did anti-semitism affect jews

The word anti-semitism means prejudice against or hatred against the Jews, and started as far long ago in the late Roman Empire. This affected Jewish people during World War 2 and even now in the 21st century.

Why does this happen? Historians believed people thought that Jews were either too successful or too lazy, and Jews claimed that they were the "chosen people". This might have sparked jealousy hate towards the Jews. Hitler and the Holocaust had also emphasized anti-semitism.