

OVERVIEW OF JUDAISM



KEY PERSON, DATE, LOCATION

ABRAHAM OF THE BIBLE, ABOUT 2000 BC, AND MOSES IN THE MIDDLE EAST
THERE ARE THREE MAIN BRANCHES OF JUDAISM | ORTHODOX,
CONSERVATIVE, AND REFORM — EACH WITH ITS OWN BELIEFS

KEY WRITINGS

THE TANAKH (OLD TESTAMENT), AND ESPECIALLY THE TORAH (FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE), THE TALMUD (EXPLANATION OF THE TANAKH), TEACHINGS OF EACH BRANCH, WRITINGS OF SAGES, SUCH AS MAIMONIDES

WHO IS GOD?

GOD IS SPIRIT

TO ORTHODOX JEWS, GOD IS PERSONAL, ALL-POWERFUL, ETERNAL, AND COMPASSIONATE | TO OTHER JEWS, GOD IS IMPERSONAL, UNKNOWABLE, AND DEFINED IN A NUMBER OF WAYS

NO TRINITY

WHO IS JESUS?

JESUS IS SEEN EITHER AS AN EXTREMIST FALSE MESSIAH OR A GOOD BUT MARTYRED JEWISH RABBI (TEACHER)

MANY JEWS DO NOT CONSIDER JESUS AT ALL

JEWS (EXCEPT MESSIANIC JEWS AND HEBREW CHRISTIANS) DO NOT BELIEVE HE WAS THE MESSIAH, SON OF GOD, OR THAT HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD

ORTHODOX JEWS BELIEVE THE MESSIAH WILL RESTORE THE JEWISH KINGDOM AND EVENTUALLY RULE THE EARTH

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

SOME BELIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ANOTHER NAME FOR GOD'S ACTIVITY ON EARTH | OTHERS SAY IT IS GOD'S LOVE OR POWER

HOW TO BE SAVED

SOME JEWS BELIEVE THAT PRAYER, REPENTANCE, AND OBEYING THE LAW ARE NECESSARY FOR SALVATION | OTHERS BELIEVE THAT SALVATION IS THE IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIETY

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?

THERE WILL BE A PHYSICAL RESURRECTION | THE OBEDIENT WILL LIVE FOREVER WITH GOD, AND THE UNRIGHTEOUS WILL SUFFER

SOME JEWS DO NOT BELIEVE IN A CONSCIOUS LIFE AFTER DEATH

OTHER FACTS, BELIEFS, OR PRACTICES

MEETING IN SYNAGOGUES ON THE SABBATH (SABBATH IS FRIDAY EVENING TO SATURDAY EVENING)

CIRCUMCISION OF MALES

MANY HOLY DAYS AND FESTIVALS, INCLUDING PASSOVER, SUKKOTH, HANUKKAH, ROSH HASHANAH, YOM KIPPUR, PURIM

JERUSALEM IS CONSIDERED THE HOLY CITY