

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

Key Words

- **OMNIBENEVOLENT:** All good/loving. God showed this through sacrifice on cross to save mankind
- **OMNIPOTENT:** All powerful e.g. creation of universe exnihilo
- **TRINITY:** three persons of God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- **INCARNATION:** God becoming human in form of Jesus in order to save us from sin
- **ATONEMENT:** Belief that Jesus' sacrifice healed the rift between humans & God
- **RESURRECTION:** belief that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, conquering death
- **SACRAMENT:** An outward sign of an invisible blessing by God e.g. baptism
- **EVANGELISM:** Preaching of the gospel to others with intention of converting them to Christianity

Jesus - Incarnation

- "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John) – God sends his Son in human form
- Virgin birth – immaculate conception
- Fully God and fully human in order to reconnect God & man
- The bridge back to God/eternal life – Jacob's ladder

Nature of God

- Omnipotent – e.g. created world in 6 days exnihilo and through Moses, God parted Red Sea during Exodus"
- Omnibenevolent – e.g. Psalm 86:15 says He is "compassionate & gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love". Also, Jesus' sacrifice was an act of love: "God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son" (John 3:16)
- Epicurus – inconsistent triad (use his quote) – some question if God is benevolent and omnipotent because evil & suffering exists. Many attempt to justify God allowing suffering (e.g. we suffer for spiritual development like Job or we suffer due to Fall of Man/sin)
- God is one (monotheism) but a Trinity-Father, Son, Holy Spirit: "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30)

Jesus- Crucifixion

- Died as perfect sacrifice for sin – Lamb of God = redemption & forgiveness
- "By His stripes, we are healed" (Isaiah)
- Sacrifice overcame death = eternal life with God for humans – salvation
- Light of the World – "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it" (John) – evil defeated
- When soldier pierced side, blood & water came out – a symbol that He is fully human and fully God

Creation

- Exnihilo – 6 days
- Literal & non-literal interpretations (how long is a Yom? Conflicts with evolution? A myth to demonstrate God's power?)
- Man created with purpose: reproduction "Go forth and multiply", enjoyment, dominion, stewardship "cultivate and guard the land". (Genesis 1-3)
- Man created imago Dei, with a soul and therefore capable of relationship with God
- Everything was perfect "God saw that it was good" (Genesis)
- All Trinity present at creation – Holy Spirit "hovered above the waters" and Jesus (The Word) was the outward expression of God's inner thought – "He was with God at the beginning. Through Him all things were made" (John 1)

Salvation & Atonement

- Diversity of opinion on how to be saved/enter heaven: Most say belief in Jesus is necessary "I am the way, the truth and the life. You cannot get to the Father, except through me" (John)
- Some say because God is loving He will save all through His grace
- Some say baptism to cleanse original sin is necessary
- Some say we must repent of our sin
- Most believe eternal life is only possible due to Jesus' sacrifice – He atoned for sin and bridged the way back to God the Father.

Afterlife

- "Those that sleep in the ground, some will awake to everlasting horror, some to everlasting life" (Daniel) – Belief that we are **RESURRECTED & JUDGED** by God
- Parable of Sheep and Goats shows what kind of people go to Heaven & Hell
- Christians believe in resurrection of the soul because Jesus resurrected 3 days after death & ascended to Heaven
- Diversity of beliefs about **HEAVEN**– physical place? "In my Father's house are many rooms". A state of mind? A place with "no tears, death, mourning or pain" (Rev.) A place to spend eternity with God. A place beyond our imagination: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard... what God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor.)
- Diversity of beliefs about **HELL**: A state of mind – separation from God? A physical place of torment: "A lake that burns with fire and sulphur" (Rev) .
- We have free will so can choose our path
- Catholic belief in **PURGATORY**– intermediate stage where souls can be cleansed in preparation for Heaven

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- **OMNIPOTENT**: All powerful e.g. creation exnihilo
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- The bridge back to God/eternal life

Nature of God

- Omnipotent – e.g created world in 6 days
- Omnibenevolent – e.g Jesus' sacrifice
- Epicurus – inconsistent triad – because evil exists – is God loving & strong? Perhaps He allows us to suffer to develop spiritually like Job? Maybe we deserve it due to sin?
- God is one (monotheism) but a Trinity- Father, Son, Holy Spirit: **"I and the Father are one"** (John 10:30)

Creation

- Exnihilo – 6 days
- Literal & non-literal interpretations (is Genesis a myth or absolute truth?)
- Man created with purpose: dominion, stewardship **"cultivate and guard the land"**.
- Man created imago Dei, with a soul = capable of relationship with God
- Everything was perfect **"God saw that it was good"** (Genesis)
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Jesus- Crucifixion

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- **"By His stripes, we are healed"** (Isaiah)
- Light of the World – darkness defeated

Salvation & Atonement

- Most say belief in Jesus is necessary to be saved **"I am the way, the truth and the life."** (John)
- Some say because God is loving He will save all through His grace
- Some say baptism to cleanse original sin is necessary
- Some say we must repent of our sin
- Eternal life only possible due to Jesus'

Afterlife

- Belief that we are **RESURRECTED & JUDGED** by God
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- Diversity of beliefs about **HEAVEN**– physical place? **"In my Father's house are many rooms"**. A state of mind? A place with **"no tears, death, mourning or pain"** (Rev.) A place to spend eternity with God.
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- Omnipotent & Omnibenevolent
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Salvation & Atonement

- Belief in Jesus necessary? **“I am the way, the truth and the life.”** (John)
- He will save all through His grace?
- Baptism to cleanse original sin?
- We must repent of our sin?
- Jesus atoned for our sin

Creation

- Exnihilo – 6 days
- Literal & non-literal
- Man created with purpose: dominion, stewardship
- Man created imago Dei, with a soul
- **“God saw that it was good”** (Genesis)
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Jesus - Incarnation

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- Virgin birth
- Fully God & fully human
- The bridge

Jesus- Crucifixion

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Afterlife

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- **Parable of Sheep and Goats**
- Diversity of beliefs about **HEAVEN**– physical place? A state of mind? A place with **“no tears, death, mourning or pain”** (Rev.)
- Diversity of beliefs about **HELL**: A state of mind? A physical place of torment?
- Catholic belief in **PURGATORY**

OMNIPOTENT
All-powerful
Genesis 1 - Creation
Exodus 14 - Plagues of Egypt

OMNIPRESENT
Everywhere
God is present in every aspect of thing, time, place (Isaiah 40:12)

OMNISCIENT
'All knowing'
Matt 10:30: And even the very hairs of your head are numbered.
God knows humans and has a plan for each person before birth.



OMNIBENEVOLENT
'All-loving'
John 3:16: God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son

TRANSCENDENT
Exists 'above and independent' from all things
Unknown and unknowable 'reveals' himself to humanity.

Free Will
Evil Face
Epicurus (342-270 BCE)
If God is willing to prevent evil, but not willing to act, then he is malevolent.
If God is able to prevent evil, but not willing, then he is indifferent.
If God is able and willing to prevent evil, but does not, then he is a tyrant.
Both willing and able to prevent evil, but he does not: why, then, does he permit it?
Is God showing his power by allowing suffering as a test caused by sin?

The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered Job. There is no-one on earth like him, he is blameless and upright. Satan replied 'Stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will curse you.'

The Story of JOB
Book of Job (OT)
• Blameless, upright, devout, wealthy.
• Satan argues this is only because he is blessed.
• Servants, children, sheep all die.
• Afflicted with sores.
• Refuses to curse God.
• Understand men cannot know ways of God.

Christianity BELIEFS

HIS WEALTH IS RESTORED AND HE GAINS A NEW FAMILY

MIRACLES
• Virgin Birth
• Walked on water
• Healing the sick
• Calming the storm
• Raising the dead
• Resurrection



He and the Father are one (John 10:30)

FATHER
• All powerful, all knowing
• Creator of all things
• All loving
• Transcendent - outside time/space

I am the way and the truth and the life I am the Father and the Father is in me (John 14:6)

THE TRINITY

SON
• Sent into the world by God
• Provides comfort, inspiration and guidance
• Strengthens faith
• Charismatic Christians in worship HOLY SPIRIT can feel his love.

NEW TESTAMENT
Beliefs based on Jesus' sayings in the Gospels and Acts.

INCARNATION God made flesh - Jesus.
• Becoming human God revealed himself to humanity
• Died to save humans.
• Enables eternal life for all humanity.



CHRISTIAN CREATION BELIEFS
• **LITERALIST - ABSOLUTELY TRUE** as told - 6 days.
• **YOUNG EARTH** - 10,000 years ago God created all things.
• **OLD EARTH** - 4.5 billion years ago God took an active role - Humans created directly by God.

NON-LITERALIST
• Bible is symbolic - needs interpretation
• Time periods - each could be millions of years.
• Can believe in Big Bang and Christian Creation.

LAST SUPPER
This is my body...
This is my blood...
• Last meal before arrest.
• Says by his sacrifice of body and blood human sins will be forgiven.

CRUCIFIXION
• Mocked by soldiers 'Crown of Thorns'
• Prays and dies on the cross.
• An act of atonement - Jesus truly God and human - suffers as humans.

RESURRECTION
The Greatest miracle - EVIDENCE Jesus is God.

ASCENSION
• After death Jesus appeared to his disciples and others.
• After a time Jesus 'rose up' to heaven.
• Some this is physically - ascended.
• Others symbolic - time on earth ended.

SIN + Salvation

• All taint of original sin (Fall)
• Humans sin - Jesus atoned
• Humans have ETERNAL LIFE in heaven to God. Some now - others on the DAY OF JUDGEMENT.

APOSTLES CREED Summary

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who through his only Son Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, who was born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, he descended into death, the third day he rose again, he ascended into heaven.

CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

Worship

- **REASON** (praise, ask help, confess, thanks)
- **COMMUNAL**: “Where 2 or 3 gather in my name, there am I with them” Matt
- **PRIVATE**- “go into your room & shut the door” (Matt)
- **LITURGICAL** (set prayer)- Anglican & RC. Rituals, sacraments, Lord’s Prayer
- **INFORMAL**- Quakers (silent), Baptist (evangelical). Extemporaneous (spontaneous)

Celebration – Christmas

- **ADVENT**– some fast
- **MIDNIGHT MASS** 24th – pray peace, hymns
- **HELP OTHERS**– foodbanks, homeless meals
- **NATIVITY** plays. **CHRISTINGLE** for kids
- **SHOPS CLOSE**– family, meals

Celebration – Easter

- **MAUNDY THURS**–holy communion, prayer vigil, minister wash feet
- **GOOD FRI** - formal service, no flowers, priest wears black, fast
- **SUNDAY**- Easter Vigil- priest signs cross on pascal candle

Sacraments - Baptism

- Jesus’ ‘**Great Commission**’ – “baptise them in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit”
- Jesus’ baptism – Trinity present
- New life, wash away sin, welcome to church
- Adult/believers baptism – total immersion- ‘Born again’
- RCs - necessary for salvation. Quakers, Salvation Army no baptism

Sacraments – Holy Communion

- **LAST SUPPER**– “take, eat, this is my body...this is the blood of the covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins...do this in memory of me” (Jesus)
- Reminds of **SACRIFICE & SALVATION**
- **TRANSUBSTANTIATION** (Catholics)– bread & wine actually become body & blood.

Pilgrimage – Walsingham

- **RICHELDES**– vision of Virgin Mary- spiritually taken to her home in Nazareth- asked to build copy
- ‘**SHRINE**– statues & artefacts help focus on prayer.
- **SLIPPER CHAPEL**–Bare-foot mile to chapel – act of repentance & atonement
- **WELL**–believe appeared at vision–healing

Britain in the Local Community

- **OUTREACH**: foodbank, street pastors, playgroups. **EVANGELISM** Alpha courses, street healing. **CEREMONIES** wedding, baptism, funerals, **PRAYER & WORSHIP**
- **UK CHRISTIAN?** **Yes**: Queen Defender of Faith, CofE established church, 2011 census 59%, law based on values **No**: census unreliable, decline Christianity, rise Islam, no respect values

Persecution

- “Don’t be amazed if the world hates you” (1John)
- Body of Christ (unity): “remember the prisoners as if chained with them” (Heb.)
- Open Doors: supply Bibles, encourage prayer. Watch List e.g. North Korea: torture, death

Tearfund

- ‘Following Jesus where need is greatest’ – eradicate poverty
- Work in over 50 countries – disaster relief e.g. Bangladesh-overpopulated, flooded farm land – taught to create floating veg. gardens for sustainable living-hunger replaced with hope

Evangelism, Mission, Ecumenical –

- Evangelism & mission still important?– ‘Great Commission’, diverse community –cause conflict?
- Ecumenical Movement & World Council of Churches – work for unity between denominations
- In UK ‘Churches Together’ & ‘Evangelical Alliance – sometimes come together in larger venue/meet at festivals e.g. Spring Harvest

Pilgrimage – Taize (France)

- Why go? Commitment, healing, duty, strengthen, thanks, sorry
- 100 Monks from different denominations & 30 countries- ecumenical
- Life of communal prayer & unity. Promises of chastity, poverty & obedience
- Famous music – pray through song. Visitors pray, study Bible, silent reflection

Worship

- **REASON** (praise, supplication/ask help, confess, thanks)
- **COMMUNAL**: “Where 2 or 3 gather in my name, there am I with them” Matt 18:20
- **PRIVATE**- “go into your room & shut the door to your Father who is in secret” (Matt 6:6)
- Jesus -worship should be “in **SPIRIT & TRUTH**” (sincere)
- **LITURGICAL** (set prayer)- Anglican & RC. Rituals, high regard for sacraments. E.g. Lord’s Prayer
- **INFORMAL**- Quakers (silent), Baptist (evangelical - allow ‘spirit’ to ‘move’), Extemporaneous (spontaneous)

Celebration – Christmas

- **ADVENT**– Eastern Orthodox fast leading up to Christmas
- **MIDNIGHT MASS** on 24th – pray peace, hymns, remember incarnation
- **HELP OTHERS**– food banks, dinner homeless shelters, remember Jesus as light over darkness – hope
- **NATIVITY** plays. **CHRISTINGLE** for kids -Orange (world), candle (light of world), red ribbon (blood, sacrifice), sweets (fruits of earth)
- **SHOPS CLOSE**– family time, meals

Celebration - Easter

- **MAUNDY THURS**– day of Last Supper – holy communion, prayer vigil (Jesus asked disciples to pray with), minister washes feet like Jesus
- **GOOD FRI** (day of death) – formal service, no flowers, priest wears black, fasting
- **SUNDAY**- Easter Vigil- priest signs cross on pascal candle & symbols of Jesus’ wounds

Sacraments - Baptism

- RCs - 7 sacraments, others just baptism & communion
- Jesus’ ‘**Great Commission**’ – “baptise them in name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit”
- Jesus’ baptism – Trinity present: Holy Spirit descended (dove). Father -“you are my beloved son”
- New life, wash away sin, welcome to church
- Adult/believers baptism – total immersion- ‘Born again’ – links to Jesus’ death & resurrection – as enter water- die to self & rise ‘in Christ’ “no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again” (Jesus in John)
- RCs - necessary for salvation. Quakers, Salvation Army no baptism

Sacraments – Holy Communion

- **LAST SUPPER**– “take, eat, this is my body...this is the blood of the covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins...do this in memory of me” (Jesus in Matt 26)
- Reminds of His **SACRIFICE** and their **SALVATION**
- Receive God’s **BLESSING** via the sacrament
- **TRANSUBSTANTIATION** (Catholics)–bread & wine actually become body & blood. Mass taken, formal worship – prayers, hymns

Pilgrimage – Walsingham

- **RICHELDES**– vision of Virgin Mary- spiritually taken to her home in Nazareth- asked to build exact copy in Walsingham
- ‘**NAZARETH OF ENGLAND**’
- **SHRINE**– statues & artefacts help focus on prayer. March from ruins to shrine – do open air mass
- **SLIPPER CHAPEL**– statue of Lady of Walsingham inside. Bare-foot mile to chapel – act of repentance & atonement – connect with Jesus’ suffering
- **WELL**–believe it appeared at vision– healing

Britain in the Local Community

- **OUTREACH**: foodbank, street pastors, playgroups, homeless, **EVANGELISM** Alpha courses, street healing, **CEREMONIES** wedding, baptism, funerals, **PRAYER & WORSHIP**
- “I will show my faith with my actions” (James). “Love one another” (Jesus)
- **UK CHRISTIAN?** **Yes**: Queen Defender of Faith, CofE established church, Lords Spiritual- political influence, 2011 census 59%, values upheld. **No**: census unreliable, decline Christianity, rise Islam, no respect values e.g. marriage, crime rise, commercialised festivals, church attendance decline

Worldwide Church: Persecution

- “Don’t be amazed if the world hates you” (1John) “Blessed are they who are persecuted for sake of righteousness, theirs is heaven” (Matt)
- Body of Christ (unity): “remember the prisoners as if chained with them” (Heb.)
- Open Doors: supply Bibles, encourage prayer, supports persecuted. Watch List e.g. North Korea: under Kim Jong-un – torture, death, prison camps
- “Our prayers go where we cannot” (Brother Andrew)

Tearfund

- ‘Following Jesus where need is greatest’ – eradicate poverty
- Work in over 50 countries – disaster relief e.g. Bangladesh-overpopulated, flooded farm land – taught to create floating veg. gardens for sustainable living-hunger replaced with hope
- E.g. emergency food & health assistance in Kenya, peace/reconciliation building, small business loans & training, HIV awareness in Rwanda, toilet twinning

Evangelism, Mission, Ecumenical –

- Evangelism & mission still important?– ‘Great Commission’, diverse community – could cause conflict, growing atheism- people need salvation?
- Ecumenical Movement & World Council of Churches – work for unity between denominations
- In UK ‘Churches Together’ & ‘Evangelical Alliance – sometimes worship together in larger venue rather than own churches, meet at large festivals/conferences e.g. Spring Harvest

Pilgrimage – Taize (France)

- Why go? Commitment, healing, duty, strengthen, thanks, sorry
- 100 Monks from different denominations (RC & protestant) & 30 countries- brings Christians together – ecumenical monistic order
- Life of communal prayer & unity. Promises of chastity, poverty & obedience
- “Make the unity of the Body of Christ your passionate concern” (Brother Roger)
- Famous music – pray through song & repeating Psalms- meditative
- Visitors attend services, pray, study Bible, reflect in silence

JEWISH BELIEFS

Key Words - CHANGE

- **SYNAGOGUE:**
- **SHEKINAH:**
- **SHABBAT:**
- **KOSHER:**
- **TORAH:**
- **MITZVOT:**
- **MESSIAH**
- **COVENANT**

Covenant

- Abraham showed obedience (journey, willing to sacrifice Isaac). Jews must show obedience & keep laws of covenant. Sign: Circumcision – Brit Milah ceremony
- In return - God promised: blessing & redemption, Father of chosen nation, Promised Land. Genesis 12 **“I will make your name great”**
- Covenant reaffirmed through Moses – given law as a guide on how to keep covenant & maintain holiness – 613 mitzvot
- Some keep all mitzvot strictly, some see 10 commandments have special guidance on living in harmony with others and respecting God

Messiah

- Comes from ‘Maschiach’- means ‘anointed one’
- Messiah needed for Messianic Age – **wolf will live with lamb, lion will eat will eat straw like the ox (Isaiah)**
- Human, political & military leader, bring peace
- Reform – don’t focus on belief – just lead good life, tikkun olam, gemilut Hasidim & peace will come
- Shemoneh Esrei prayer recited x3 daily- coming of Messiah, rebuilding of Temple, end to sin
- Matisyahu’s song ‘One Day’ expresses hope for Messianic Age- Orthodox pray for this
- Belief in Messiah one of Maimonides 13 principles

Nature of God

- OMNIPOTENCE: **Hashem ‘the name’** – shows & awe of God
- **“If I understand Him I would be Him”** (Judah ha Levi)
- MONOTHEISM: God is one – Shema **“Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one”**
- CREATOR (Genesis)- 6 days, exnihilo, imago Dei, stewardship, dominion: belief recognised at Shabbat
- LAW GIVER- Mt. Sinai, unique revelation to Moses (‘face to face, as a friend’), 613 mitzvot as part of covenant, guide for holiness for chosen nation to lead mankind to redemption – (**Exodus 19: mountain shook violently**)
- JUDGE- recognised in festivals of RH and YK
- SHEKINAH- divine presence of God sometimes felt (e.g. burning bush, Torah revelation) – Leonard Nimoy **‘most people at one time or another have a feeling of being in a state of grace’**

Afterlife

- Concentrate on this life: **“This world is like a lobby before the Olam Ha-Ba. Prepare yourself in the lobby so that you may enter the banquet hall.”** (Mishnah)
- Little written in Torah so - Keep covenant, remember the shema - ultimately determines afterlife anyway
- See ancestors again – Abraham was **“gathered to his people”**
- Orthodox believe in bodily & spiritual resurrection **“those that sleep in the ground will awake, some to everlasting life, some to everlasting horror”** (Daniel)
- Olam ha ba (world to come): sheol (place of waiting), after resurrection- righteous go straight to Gan Eden (paradise), wicked to Gehenna (12 months to purify & punish. If still wicked some say annihilated, some say punished for eternity)
- Most reform reject resurrection- taken out of prayer book
- Kabbalistic/mystical belief in reincarnation- righteous come back to carry on tikkun olam or finish business

Pikuach Nefesh

- Sanctity of Life – Genesis says humans made in God’s image, breathed breath of life into man. **L’Chaim- ‘to life’** toasted at weddings
- **Psalm 139: 13-15, Jeremiah 1:5** (God knew you in the womb)
- **“One who has saved a single life, it is as though he saved the entire world”** - Talmud
- So mitzvot can be broken to save a life **“live by them, but do not die by them”** (Yoma 85b)
- Talmud contains several e.gs of laws being broken to save life – putting out fire, rescuing child from sea, rabbi advised to break Yom Kippur fast to preserve life during plague
- Exceptions – idolatry, murder, incest, adultery

Free Will & Mitzvot

- Given free will, mind & soul to help guide them
- Born with 2 natural urges which are in balance- Yetzer ha tov (good), Yetzer ha ra (evil). Our actions change the balance of the urges
- No devil responsible for evil – we are. God isn’t to blame for suffering (**Job**)

Messiah

- Means 'anointed one'
- Messianic Age – **wolf will live with lamb, lion will eat will eat straw like the ox (Isaiah)**
- Human, political & military leader, bring peace
- Reform – don't focus on belief – just lead good life
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Covenant

- Abraham showed obedience . Jews must also keep covenant. Sign: Circumcision
- In return - God promised: blessing & redemption, Father of chosen nation, Promised Land. Genesis 12 "**I will make your name great**"
- Covenant reaffirmed through Moses – given law as a guide on holiness

Nature of God

- OMNIPOTENCE
- MONOTHEISM: God is one – Shema
- CREATOR- 6 days- belief recognised at Shabbat
- LAW GIVER- 613 mitzvot as part of covenant, guide for holiness for chosen nation
- JUDGE- recognised in festivals of RH and YK- deeds written in book of life
- SHEKINAH- divine presence of God (e.g. burning bush)

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- "**One who has saved a single life, it is as though he saved the entire world**" – Talmud
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- Born with 2 natural urges which are in balance- Yetzer ha tov (good), Yetzer ha ra (evil). Our actions change the balance

Covenant

- Abraham's promise: Keep covenant. Circumcision
- God promised: blessing & redemption, Father of chosen nation, Promised Land
- Covenant reaffirmed through Moses –law

Pikuach Nefesh

- Sanctity of Life
- Mitzvot can be broken to save life -putting out fire on Shabbat

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- MONOTHEISM:One
- CREATOR
- LAW GIVER- 613 mitzvot
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- SHEKINAH- divine presence of God (e.g. burning bush)

Afterlife

- Concentrate on this life
- Orthodox believe in bodily & spiritual resurrection **"those that sleep in the ground will awake, some to everlasting life, some to everlasting horror" (Daniel)**
- Olam ha ba (world to come): sheol (place of waiting)
- After resurrection- righteous to Gan Eden (paradise), wicked to Gehenna (12 months). If still wicked some say annihilated, some say punished for eternity.
- Most reform reject resurrection
- Mystical belief in reincarnation

Key Words

- **SYNAGOGUE:**
- **SHEKINAH:**
- **SHABBAT:**
- **KOSHER:**
- **TORAH:**
- **MITZVOT:**
- **MESSIAH**
- **COVENANT**

Messiah

- Means 'anointed one'
- Peaceful Messianic Age – **wolf will live with lamb (Isaiah)**
- Reform – don't focus on belief – just lead good life

Free Will & Mitzvot

- Given free will & soul to help guide
- Born with 2 natural urges which are in balance- Yetzer ha tov (good), Yetzer ha ra (evil). Our actions change the balance

Covenant

- Abraham's promise: Keep covenant. Circumcision
- God promised: blessing & redemption, Father of chosen nation, Promised Land
- Covenant reaffirmed through Moses –law

Pikuach Nefesh

- Sanctity of Life
- Mitzvot can be broken to save life -putting out fire on Shabbat

Nature of God

- OMNIPOTENCE
- MONOTHEISM:One
- CREATOR
- LAW GIVER- 613 mitzvot
- JUDGE
- SHEKINAH- divine presence of God (e.g. burning bush)

Afterlife

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JEWISH PRACTICES

Worship: Synagogue (Shabbat –Sat. am)

- Orthodox: 2-3 hours. Minyan (men). Women separate
- Siddur (prayer book) includes shema, Amidah (learn detail) & kaddish
- Section of Torah read. Then haftarah (neviim). Rabbi gives sermon. Unaccompanied singing. Kiddush (blessing over wine)
- Reform – less Hebrew, less reference to bodily resurrection, messiah & angels, variety of music

Worship: In the home

- Home -a 'sanctuary': *"Its effects stay with us for a lifetime. It is where one generation passes on its values to the next"* (Former Chief Rabbi Sacks)
- Woman's role/privilege (Orthodox)
- Collect in pushkes as form of tzedakah
- Modei ani (am prayer): *"I offer thanks before you, living and eternal king"*
- Shema x3 per day. Shema in mezuzah = God's protection of home
- Dress: tefillin, tallit (& tzitzit) kippah (reform women wear too), Orthodox women wigs, men sideburns (peyo). Minhag Hamakom (dress to local customs)

Shabbat: identity, family togetherness, remembers creation/God's in history, rest reflection, gift, sign of covenant

- Fri sunset to Sat. stars out
- Taster of peaceful messianic era: *"If all Jews observe one Shabbat, the Messiah will come."*
- Prepare night before (cooker/lights on timer, clean) because no work (39 melachot)
- Friday: Mother beckons with hands to welcome Shabbat. 2 candles: 2 commands to practice Shabbat in Torah (Ex. 20:8-10). Men walk to synagogue-bless wife on return 'more precious than rubies'. Kiddush said. Blessing over chalot.
- Saturday: synagogue. Eruv so can carry to service. Havdallah (separation) service - spices, plaited candles (12 wicks =tribes of Israel)

The Synagogue

- Features: bimah, aron hakodesh, Torah scrolls, seating, ner tamid, minyan
- Exodus 20:4-5: no idols
- 3 functions: Beit tefilah (house of prayer), Beit Midrash (study), help society (pushke, tzedakah)
- West London Synagogue (reform): committed to social action - drop-in/food bank for asylum seekers, interfaith projects with churches
- Bradford Synagogue – friendship with mosque-fundraised for them

Daily Life

- Use of Tenakh & Talmud **COMPLETE**

- Kosher (fit to eat), parev (neutral), treifah (forbidden)
- Dietary laws: Sets them apart (Lev. 20:26). Fish (fins&scales), Meat (chew cud, split hoof), Bird (no prey). No milk with meat (**don't boil kid in mother's milk**) See **Leviticus 11:1-23**. Shechitah slaughter laws. Shochet butcher
- Consider benefits & challenges of keeping kosher

Festivals; Pesach

- Origin: **Ex. 12:14** Israelites freedom from slavery – Moses delivers them- miracles – part sea, plagues (10th – angel of death 'passes over')
- 7 days in Israel, 8 elsewhere. First 2 days rest days
- Search for chametz, fast of first born, mother welcomes with candles
- Seder meal: bitter herbs (slavery), egg (sacrifice in temple), spring veg (new life), lamb bone (blood on door) charoset (cement), matzah (no time bread to rise), salt water (tears). Haggadah book read (story in 14 steps, 4 questions, songs). 4 glasses wine (=4 ways God delivered – Ex.6:6-7). Havdallah blessing last night

Festivals: Sukkot (lasts 7 days)

- Origin Lev.23:42. Remembers 40 years in desert after exodus – lived in sukkot (huts). God provided – manna from heaven
- Fragility – time spent in flimsy hut reminds them God is their security
- Hut has 3 sides, must see sky through it
- 4 species that need lots of water waved in 6 directions: lulav (palm), Etrog (citron), aravot (willow), hadassim (myrtle). Prayers for rain said after

Festivals:Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur (Days of Awe/returning)

- **Isaiah 5:6**. RH (New Year. Judgement) – 10 days later YK (atonement)- focus on teshuva (repentance)
- RH – new fruits, prayers address God as King, Kiddush, apple & honey, fishhead, challah, 100 notes on shofar, casting away (tashlich)-bread into river
- YK – no food,sex,perfume,leather, gold, forgiveness prayer (kaporot), chickens to poor, men to mikveh, 25 hr fast, kittel worn, 5 services, kol nidre (annul vows), Jonah read, Torah dressed in white, N'eilah prayer, havdallah service

Rituals: Brit Milah

- Command in Gen. 17:10 – 8 days old- sign of covenant
- Baby placed on Elijah's chair (believed he visits every circumcision). Mohel performs it. Sits on sandek's knee (respected friend)
- Girls have brit bat naming ceremony

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- Orthodox girls – Bat Chayil (Daughter of valour)- 12 years. Focus on duties in home (e.g. kashrut), charity events

Rituals: Marriage

- Genesis 2:24: **That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.**
- Simcha (joyous occasion).
- Fast on wedding day (broken after – yichud 'private togetherness')
- Under chuppah = home. Sides open = welcome community. Bride circles husband 7 times = creating walls of her home.
- Shevra brachot (7 blessings), 7 cups of wine, 7 feasts in homes of friends week after
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- Stamp on glass = destruction of temple/fragility of marriage- mazel tov! (good luck!)

Rituals: Mourning

- Dying never left alone, shema recited, candle placed by head, buried within 24 hrs. **Psalm 91 & kaddish** recited @ burial
- Plain coffin, plain tombstone.
- Keriah – tear clothes = sign of grief
- Chevra kaddisha (holy society) prep. for burial –dressed in white (men in kittel), wrapped in tallit (fringes cut)
- Orthodox don't cremate (bodily resurrection). Cemetery called Bet ha-Hayyim (house of life)
- Shiva – 7 days mourning for all: low stools, egg & bread, cover mirrors.
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Messiah

- Means 'anointed one'
- Messianic Age – **wolf will live with lamb, lion will eat will eat straw like the ox (Isaiah)**
- Human, political & military leader, bring peace
- Reform – don't focus on belief – just lead good life
- Matisyahu's song 'One Day' expresses hope for Messianic Age

Free Will & Mitzvot

- Given free will & soul to help guide
- Born with 2 natural urges which are in balance- Yetzer ha tov (good), Yetzer ha ra (evil). Our actions change the balance of the urges
- No devil responsible for evil – we are. God isn't to blame for suffering (**Job**)

Afterlife

- Concentrate on this life
- Little written in Torah so - Keep covenant- ultimately determines afterlife anyway
- Orthodox believe in bodily & spiritual resurrection **"those that sleep in the ground will awake, some to everlasting life, some to everlasting horror" (Daniel)**
- Olam ha ba (world to come): sheol (place of waiting), after resurrection- righteous go straight to Gan Eden (paradise), wicked to Gehenna (12 months to purify & punish. If still wicked some say annihilated, some say punished for eternity)
- Most reform reject resurrection- taken out of prayer book
- Mystical belief in reincarnation- righteous come back to carry on tikkun olam or finish business

Nature of God

- OMNIPOTENCE
- MONOTHEISM: God is one – Shema
- CREATOR- 6 days- belief recognised at Shabbat
- LAW GIVER- 613 mitzvot as part of covenant, guide for holiness for chosen nation
- JUDGE- recognised in festivals of RH and YK- deeds written in book of life
- SHEKINAH- divine presence of God (e.g. burning bush)

Key Words

- **SYNAGOGUE**
- **SHEKINAH**
- **SHABBAT**
- **KOSHER**
- **TORAH**
- **MITZVOT**
- **MESSIAH**
- **COVENANT**

Covenant

- Abraham showed obedience . Jews must also keep covenant. Sign: Circumcision
- In return - God promised: blessing & redemption, Father of chosen nation, Promised Land. Genesis 12 **"I will make your name great"**
- Covenant reaffirmed through Moses – given law as a guide on holiness

Pikuach Nefesh

- Sanctity of Life
- **"One who has saved a single life, it is as though he saved the entire world"** – Talmud
- So mitzvot can be broken to save a life -putting out fire on Shabbat
- Exceptions – idolatry, murder, incest, adultery