

Explain various Jewish beliefs about what happens when we die.

Some Jews believe there is no afterlife - "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" Tenakh

Some believe your physical body will be resurrected, "This world is like the eve of the Shabbat"

Some Jews believe there is after-life. We have free will then nothing would tell them to do good and bad. Therefore humans must have the power to do good or evil and the Torah says "As they say we know it"

What do you think is the most important aspect of being Jewish and why?

The most important aspect of Judaism is belief in God as he gave them the rules (mitzvot) that tell Jews how to live their lives

Explain the difference between Orthodox, Reformed and Secular Jews.

Orthodox Jews closely follow the Torah and try to observe the 613 mitzvot.

Reform Jews believe the Torah can be interpreted. Secular Jews don't believe in God. As they say the Lord is one we know it's monotheistic

Explain what monotheism is and why it is so important within Judaism (include reference to the 'shema').

Monotheism is the belief in one God only as "Mono" means one and "theism" means belief in God. This is said in the Shema, the prayer Jews recite twice a day: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord is one"

Jews believe that God created the universe in 6 days and on the seventh he rested. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" Creation out of nothing. The first verse of the Torah tells us that God is eternal and the creator of the universe

Explain what Jews believe about freewill and the link between this and the mitzvot.

Humans do not have free will. We know this is true. Otherwise we do matters. We know this is true. Otherwise we do matters. We know this is true. Otherwise we do matters.

With reference to 'pikuach nefesh', explain why life is seen as so precious within Judaism.

Life is seen as so precious because God made people in his image. Genesis 1:26 says, "Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image in our likeness'" Pikuach nefesh is the belief that life is special, sacred and belongs to God (the sanctity of life). Chaim means life

Revision Clock

Judaism: Beliefs and Teachings

Explain the importance of the Jewish belief in God as 'the lawgiver' and 'the judge'.

The Jews believe that God gave Moses the mitzvot and the 10 commandments and is therefore the law giver. God is believed to be will judge their good deeds against their bad. Rosh Hashanah is seen as a judgement day and so God will judge them

Explain what is meant by the 'Mosaic covenant' and why it is so important within Judaism.

God promised Moses on Mount Sinai that as long as the Israelites obeyed the 613 rules (mitzvot) and specifically the ten commandments then he would bless them and provide them with a great nation. It was the Abrahamic covenant

Explain what is meant by the 'Abrahamic covenant' and why it is so important within Judaism.

God promised Abraham that as long as he trusted God and circumcised all boys then God would bless him, provide them with a great nation

The Messiah is the awaited one who some Jews believe will bring in a new era for humankind. This will include rebuilding the Temple and bring in a new era of universal peace.

Explain the importance what Jews mean by the 'messiah' and how it might affect the lives of Jewish people today.

Explain the importance what Jews mean by the 'shekinah' and how it might affect the lives of Jewish people today.

Shekinah means divine presence and is the place where God's presence rests and can be felt. Some Jews believe that the Shekinah followed the Jews into exile. Others believe that the Shekinah rests in the Temple. "Whenever there is a prayer, there is a Shekinah"