

**KEY TERMS**

**TORAH**—The 5 books of law or of Moses the most Holy books in the Tenakh

**TENAKH**—Jewish scripture made up of the Torah, Prophets and other writings

**MITZVOT**—the name given to the laws or duties Jews have to follow. There are 613 in the Torah.

**MESSIAH**—the anointed one sent by G\_D to bring about the Messianic age a time of universal peace and the rebuilding of the Temple

**TEMPLE**—the centre and most Holy building in Judaism destroyed all but the western wall by the Romans in 70 AD.

**SYNAGOGUE**—the building that Jews attend on Shabbat for worship as well as other days for prayer when time allows.

**COVENANT**—A promise or agreement. Covenants were made by Abraham, Noah and Moses.

**SHEKHINAH**—Where G\_d’s presence can be felt

**ORTHODOX JEWS**— Strict Jews who follow the Mitzvot (laws) in the Torah as closely as possible. They believe society may change but G\_d’s laws are constant.

**REFORM JEWS**— are less strict Jews who feel that the mitzvot should be interpreted to fit the times.

**MONOTHEISM**—Judaism is a Monotheistic, meaning it believes in one G\_d as is seen in the SHEMA

**THE NATURE OF G D**

Jews believe G\_d is OMNIPOTENT, OMNISCIENT and OMNIPRESENT

Judaism is monotheistic summed up in the SHEMA a statement of Jewish belief “Hear Oh Israel the Lord your G\_d the Lord is One and you will love the Lord your God with all your Heart, all your Soul and all your Mind”

God is so revered and holy Jews do not use his name, when written the o is replaced with a line so his name is not destroyed. The term HASHEM meaning ‘the name’ is used instead. Miamonides (12th century rabbi) said “no language exists able to describe the uniqueness of G\_d”

All Jews see G\_d as CREATOR as seen in the Genesis creation story at the start of the TORAH. Strict Orthodox Jews believe this account of creation literally, but many believe it was just written to explain G\_d is responsible for the creation and that all things come from G\_d, creation is ongoing as he sustains his creation.

Jews see God as Law giver, not just the 10 commandments but all the 613 laws of the TORAH which identifies Jews as his chosen people.

God is seen as JUDGE and each year Jews are reminded of this at ROSH HASHANAH when G\_d will judge a persons good and bad deeds of the previous year to decide if their name should remain in the book of life for next year. But G\_d is also a merciful G\_d so in the 10 days of returning Jews have the opportunity to right wrongs before YOM KIPPUR the day of ATONEMENT the holiest day of the Jewish year. Jews believe it is impossible to repent after death so it has to be done in this life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDxbV8hmObk>

**SHEKHINAH THE DIVINE PRESENCE OF GOD**

Shekhinah refers to where G\_d’s presence can be felt or is most particularly felt. Traditionally this was in the Temple in Jerusalem in the Holiest of Holies, an area where only the priests would go.

However in the Torah and Tenakh there are many occasions when God’s presence is felt such as Moses through the burning bush. Fire, smoke and light are often features of God’s presence.

The Temple was destroyed in 70AD by the Romans but the Western wall remains and is seen as somewhere SHEKHINAH is felt.

Shekinah is often referred to as the feminine aspect of G\_d.

If G\_d is OMNIPRESENT there is a thought that his presence could be felt everywhere. Women would say that they feel the presence of G\_d when lighting the Shabbat candles, men in the act of their daily prayers or Shabbat services.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-3qL0rxrs0>

**THE MASSIAH AND MESSIANIC AGE**

Jews Believe that G\_d will send an anointed one the Messiah who is trusted by G\_d who will bring a new age of universal peace and it will include the TEMPLE being rebuilt. Although the Torah doesn’t mention the Messiah books of the Prophets such as Isaiah in the rest of the Tenakh do. Isaiah says it will be “when the wolf will lie down with the lamb”. The age will be heralded by the arrival of the Messiah and the resurrection of the dead.

The Messiah is in the ‘13 principles of faith’ drawn up by Maimonides, but there are differing views on it because there is no mention of it in the Torah and it is beyond human understanding so they concentrate on the present.



1. God exists.
2. God is one and unique.
3. God is incorporeal (having no material body or form )
4. God is eternal.
5. Prayer is to be directed to God alone.
6. The words of the prophets are true.
7. Moses was the greatest prophet, and his prophecies are true.
8. The Torah was given to Moses.
9. There will be no other Torah.
10. God knows the thoughts and deeds of men.
11. God will reward the good and punish the wicked.
12. The Messiah will come.
13. The dead will be resurrected.