



**JUDAISM**

**101**

## HEBREWS

“Eber” – one of Abraham’s ancestors

“Eyver” – reference to the “other side”

1) Abraham came from the “other” side of the Euphrates River

2) Abraham was separated from the other nations morally and spiritually

## ISRAELITES


“Children of Israel” - descendants of Jacob who was called “Israel”

## JEWS

Derived from “Judah”  
→ one of Jacob’s sons  
→ one of the “Tribes of Israel”

Commonly used to refer to all physical and spiritual descendants of Jacob, Abraham, and Isaac

# JEWISH LEADERS

A photograph of four men in black suits and hats standing in a line against a stone wall. The men are seen from behind, looking towards the wall. The man in the center has his hands clasped behind his back. The man on the far right is holding a book or document. The background is a textured stone wall.

## **PATRIARCHS / MONARCHS**

*Abraham*

*Isaac*

*Jacob*

*Joseph*

*Moses*

*Saul*

*David*

*Solomon*

## **PROPHETS**

*Samuel*

*Elijah*

*Isaiah*

*Jeremiah*

*Ezekiel*

*Jonah*

*Daniel*

# Why Should I Believe In God?

David Ben Gurion (1<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister of Israel)

“A Jew who does not believe in miracles is not a realist” because miracles are the only possible explanation for the existence of the Jewish people.

Louis XIV asked Pascal (philosopher) to give him proof of the supernatural. “Why, the Jews, your Majesty – the Jews.”

Frederick the Great asked an advisor as to why he should believe in God – “Israel”

# *Why Should I Believe In God?*

Mark Twain

“The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded away. The Greek and Roman followed, made a vast noise and they are gone. Other peoples have sprung up, and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out and they sit in twilight now or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal, but the Jew. All other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?”

# Why Should I Believe In God?

Leo Tolstoy

“The Jew is the emblem of eternity. He who neither slaughter nor torture of thousands of years could destroy, he who neither fire, nor sword, no Inquisition was able to wipe off the face of the earth. He who was the first to produce the Oracles of God. He who has been for so long the Guardian of Prophecy and has transmitted it to the rest of the world. Such a nation cannot be destroyed. The Jew is as everlasting as Eternity itself.

# WHY DID GOD CREATE THE WORLD?

- **For humanity to do good**
- **To attain holiness**

# PURPOSE of a LIFE

**Tikun Olam:** “Fixing the World” – the Jewish believer is engaged in the literal process of fixing a broken world. This is the ultimate purpose of every Jewish believers life. Through the observance of the law, the Jew will contribute to the restoration of the nation of Israel, preparing the way for the Messiah to come and take his place in God’s kingdom on earth:

“Judaism is a faith that believes in the renewal and change of the human being. Change is hard and arduous, but possible. We can remake ourselves because more than anything else, what we are is a product of our own choice and our own work.”

Rabbi David Wolpe

**Olam Ha-Ba:** “The World to Come” – Jews believe that there is a world to come in which the Messiah will reign, a world in which the Jewish temple will be rebuilt and the nation of Israel will be fully restored, instituting a world order of justice and compassion.

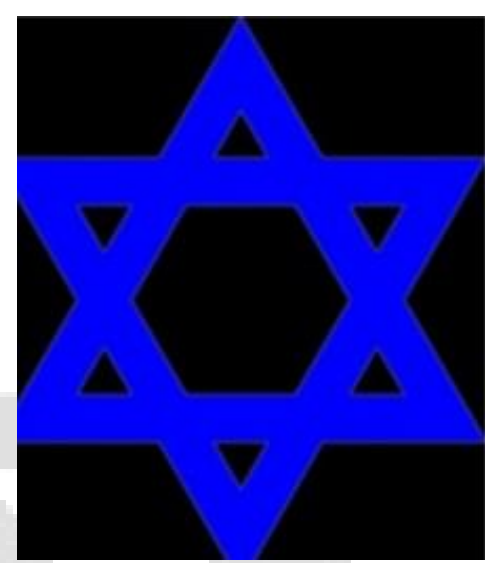


# SATAN

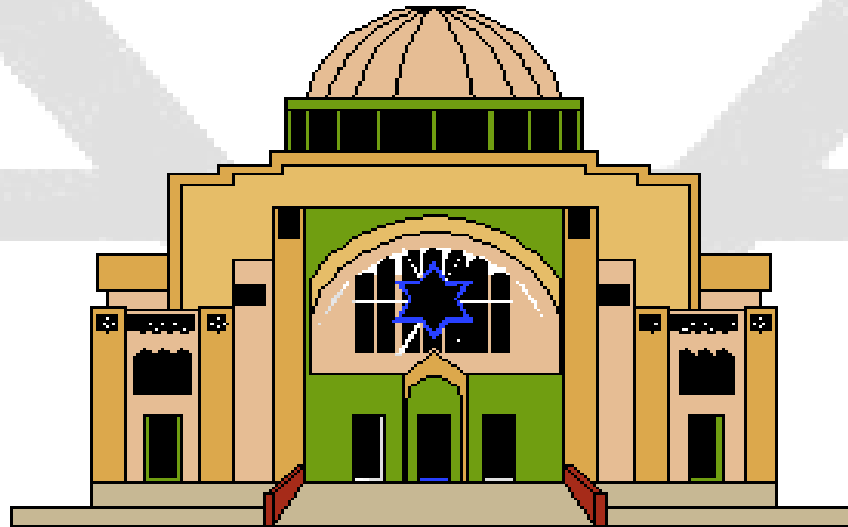
- **God created both good and evil (Isaiah 45:7)**
- **Satan (“hinderer”) is not rebellious**
  - ✓ **does what God commands him to do**
  - ✓ **“Missing the Mark” = Sin (Not following Torah)**
  - ✓ **“Hitting the Mark”**
- **By ignoring “temptation” one grows closer to God**
- **Struggle is not good/evil, struggle lies within each person to “improve the here and now”**
- **Free Will**



# JUDAISM



## *Signs and Symbols*





# MENORAH

Oldest symbol of the Jewish people

Represents Light, Wisdom, and Divine Inspiration

**Shabbat Menorah has seven branches**



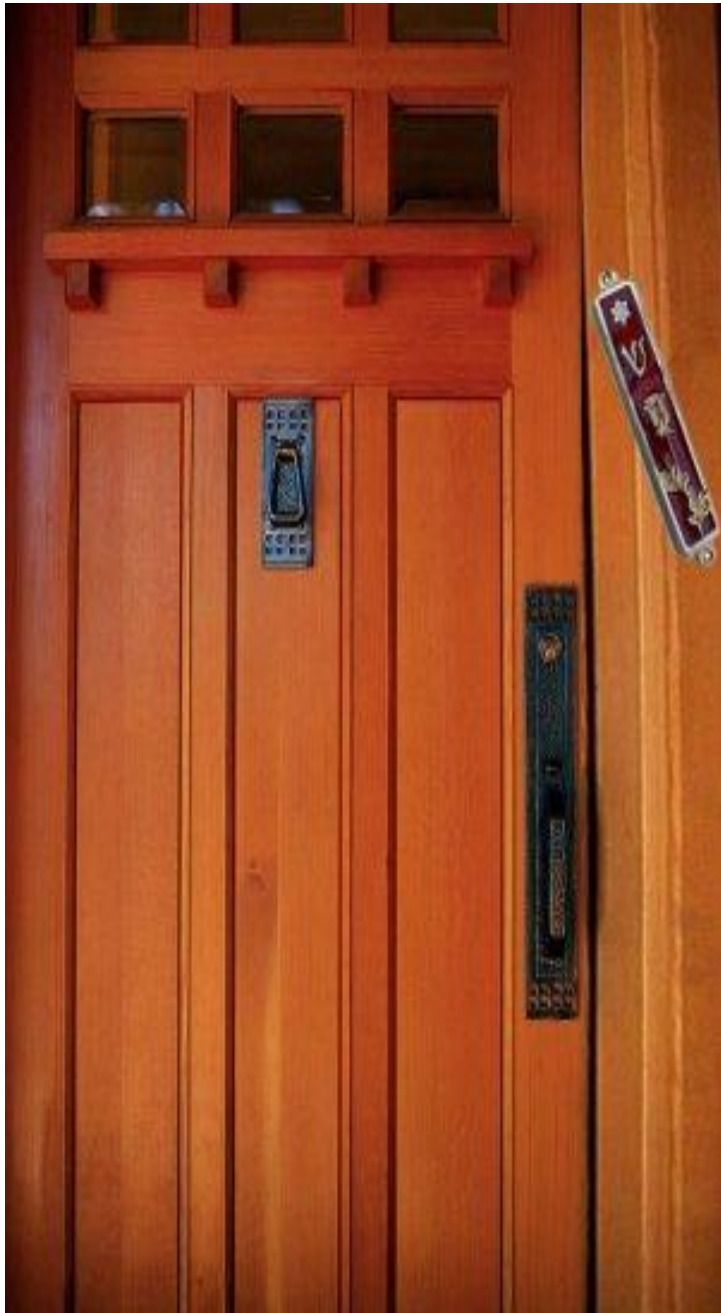
**Chanukah Menorah has nine branches**

# STAR OF DAVID



King David had soldiers  
put symbol on their  
shields

Standard symbol in  
synagogues



## MEZUZAH

Scroll which Jewish people keep inside a case and fix to the right side of their door frames.

Constant reminder of God's presence.

If a Jew moves, he must remove the Mezuzah from the door and take it with him. Leaving it behind is considered disrespectful to God.



# PRAYING CLOTHES

## YARMULKE

Cap worn on the head to show respect for God and acknowledgement of what's "above"



## TALLIT

Tasselled shawl worn during prayer as reminder of Torah laws



## TZITZIT

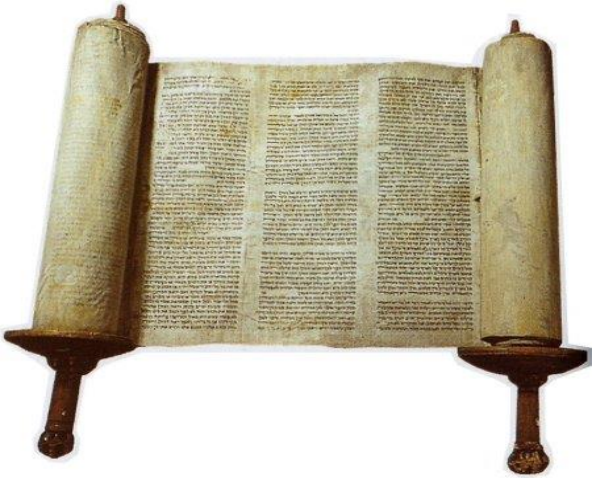
Fringes at corners of garments as a reminder of the 613 [Mitzvot](#) given to Moses at Mt. Sinai



## TEFILLIN

Ribbons with small boxes attached to it. They can be attached around the arm but often near the head to show they are thinking about God or hanging near the chest to show that they love God

# TORAH



Most important document in the Jewish religion

"Written Law"



1<sup>st</sup> 5 Books of Jewish Scripture

Torah Scrolls are frequently kept in an "Ark" in Synagogues



The **YAD** is used to point to the words as it cannot be touched by hands.

# Bar / Bat Mitzvah

**“Bar Mitzvah” = “son of the commandment” (Age 13)**

**“Bat Mitzvah” = “daughter of the commandment (Age 12)**

**Under Jewish Law, children are not obligated to observe the commandments. This ceremony formally marks:**

- 1. obligation to follow commandments**
- 2. take part in leading religious services**
- 3. count in a *minyan***
  - minimum # of people needed to perform certain parts of religious services**
- 4. form binding contracts**
- 5. testify before religious courts**
- 6. marry**



# KOSHER

Kashrut (Fit or Proper) = body of Jewish law dealing with what foods can/cannot be eaten and how they must be prepared

1. Certain animals may not be eaten at all. This restriction includes the flesh, organs, eggs and milk of the forbidden animals (pork)
2. All blood must be drained from meat and poultry or broiled out of it before it is eaten.
3. Fruits and vegetables are permitted, but must be inspected for bugs (which cannot be eaten)
4. Meat (the flesh of birds and mammals) cannot be eaten with dairy.
5. Fish, eggs, fruits, vegetables and grains can be eaten with either meat or dairy.
6. Utensils (including pots and pans and other cooking surfaces) that have come into contact with meat may not be used with dairy
7. Utensils that have come into contact with non-kosher food may not be used with kosher food. This applies only where the contact occurred while the food was hot.
8. Grape products made by non-Jews may not be eaten

**WHY do Jews observe these laws?** Torah says so