



Key Scripture

Deuteronomy 6: 4-5 *Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God; the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your means.*

Genesis 17 Covenant between God and Abraham.

Deuteronomy 11:13 *And it will be, if you hearken to My commandments that I command you this day to love the Lord, your God, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul*

Deuteronomy 5:15 *And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord your God took you out from there with a strong hand and with an outstretched arm; therefore, the Lord, your God, commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.*

Practices

Jews worship both in the synagogue and at home.

The Torah is valued highly by the Jewish people and it is an honour to remove the scroll from the Ark.

Jews pray at least three times a day as a way of communicating with God.

Jews observe Shabbat, a day of rest.

Circumcision is a sign of the covenant.

A mezuzah is found on the majority of Jewish front doors as a sign upon entering that God is present.

Every Jewish home will have a kosher kitchen.

Key Vocabulary

Torah	Instruction; the Five Books of Moses.
Shabbat	This is the weekly Day of Rest that starts at sunset on Friday and lasts until nightfall on Saturday
mezuzah	This literally means “doorpost” but usually refers to the small box, with texts from the Torah inside, that is fixed to the doorposts in Jewish homes.
covenant	A promise between God and His people.
kosher	This means “lawful” or “pure” and refers to foods that Jews are allowed to eat.
Circumcision (Brit Milah)	A religious rite which involves removing the foreskin of a young boy.

Key Theological Concepts

The belief in one God is central to Judaism.

Jews believe that they have a special relationship with God through an everlasting covenant made between God and Abraham. Abraham became the father of the Jewish faith when he entered into a covenant with God. This was far from a set of rules for the people to obey – it is about living as a God centred, holy, nation. God wants His people to live their lives as an act of worship - in such a way as to show the world who He is and to demonstrate why others should follow and worship Him.

The name of God, YHWH is so holy that it is only permissible to speak it once a year, on the Jewish Day of Atonement. The name ‘Adonai’ (Master) or ‘Lord’ is more frequently used.

The Torah is part of the Tenakh, which also includes the Nevi'im and Ketuvim. Tenakh is the Old Testament part of the Christian Bible, and tells the story of the Jews, the people of God.

