

Core Jewish Beliefs About God – Judaism Beliefs [1/5]

Judaism teaches **monotheism** – belief in **one indivisible God**, who is the **Creator, Law-Giver**, and **Judge**. God is both **immanent** (close) and **transcendent** (beyond understanding). The Shema declares God's unity. **Maimonides**, a medieval Jewish scholar, summarised Jewish belief in God through his **13 Principles of Faith**.

Aspect of God	What it means	Example / Importance
Monotheism	One God only	The Shema: “The Lord is One” (Deut. 6:4); Maimonides' 2nd Principle
Creator	God made everything	Genesis 1–2; Shabbat celebrates this
Law-Giver	Gave moral and ritual law	613 mitzvot via Moses – central to Jewish life
Judge	Fair and merciful	Reflected in Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur
Omnipotent	All-powerful	Seen in the Exodus, creation, miracles
Omnibenevolent	All-loving and kind	God's covenant promises and forgiveness
Shekhinah	Divine presence of God	Felt in worship, exile, study of Torah
Maimonides	Philosopher and rabbi	Taught that God is eternal, indivisible, and beyond human form (1st, 2nd, 3rd Principles)

Maimonides' Link

Maimonides taught that belief in God's **existence, unity, incorporeality** (God has no body), and **eternity** are essential to Jewish faith. His **13 Principles of Faith** begin with five key teachings about God's nature, and are still recited by many Jews in the form of **Ani Ma'amin** (“I believe...”).

Why This Belief Matters

- It forms the foundation of **Jewish identity and worship**.
- It guides how Jews **live, pray, and think about justice and mercy**.
- Maimonides' Principles still influence **Orthodox theology** today.



🧠 Core Jewish Beliefs About the Covenant – Jewish Beliefs [2/5]

A **covenant** is a **sacred agreement** between **God** and **His people**. Jews believe that they are the **Chosen People**, chosen not for privilege but for **responsibility** – to **obey God's laws** and live ethically. The two main covenants are with **Abraham** and **Moses**.

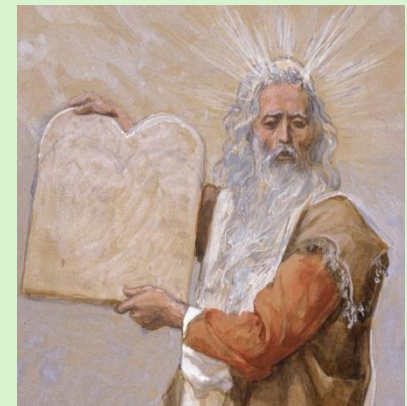
Covenant	What it involves	Why it matters
Abrahamic Covenant	God promises descendants, land (Canaan), and blessings	Jews must be faithful and practise circumcision (Genesis 17)
Mosaic Covenant	God gives the Torah and 613 mitzvot at Mount Sinai	Central to Jewish identity and law – “I will be your God...” (Exodus 19)
Chosen People	Jews are set apart to live by God’s commands	Brings moral responsibility, not superiority
Circumcision (Brit Milah)	Sign of Abraham’s covenant, done on 8th day of life	Still practised by Orthodox and many Reform Jews
Responsibility	Covenant means obligation, not just privilege	Obedience to mitzvot expresses covenant faithfulness

👤 Maimonides’ Link

Maimonides emphasised that **following the commandments** is central to the **covenant**. Obedience brings spiritual reward, and the covenant expresses God’s justice and mercy.

📌 Why This Belief Matters

- It shows that **Judaism is a religion of action and obedience**.
- It explains why Jews follow the **mitzvot** and continue **ritual practices**.
- It reminds Jews of their **unique relationship with God**, shaped by promises and moral duty.





Core Jewish Beliefs About Life After Death – Jewish Beliefs [3/5]

Beliefs about the **afterlife** in Judaism are **diverse** and often not central. The Hebrew Bible (Tenakh) focuses more on **this life** than the next. However, many Jews believe in **Olam Ha-Ba** (the World to Come), **resurrection**, and **judgement**. These beliefs vary between **Orthodox** and **Reform** traditions.

Belief	What it means	Who believes it?
Olam Ha-Ba	“The World to Come” – a spiritual realm or future age of peace	Accepted across most Jewish traditions
Resurrection (Techiyat ha-metim)	Dead will be raised at the end of time	Orthodox Jews believe in bodily resurrection; part of Maimonides' 13 Principles
Immortality of the Soul	The soul lives on after death	Believed by many Jews, especially Reform Jews
Judgement	God will judge each soul after death	Encourages moral living in this life
Gan Eden	Paradise (heaven-like place) for the righteous	Spiritual reward
Gehinnom	Place of purification (not eternal hell)	Souls reflect and learn from sins
Messianic Age	A time of peace and justice brought by the Messiah	Some link this to afterlife hope (especially Orthodox)



Maimonides' Link

- **Thirteen Principles of Faith** include belief in **resurrection**, **divine reward and punishment**, and **life after death**.
- He taught that those who deny these are not faithful Jews (Orthodox view).



Why This Belief Matters

- Encourages Jews to live **righteously** and follow **God's law**.
- Offers **hope**, especially during **bereavement**.
- Shows differences in how Judaism views **body and soul**, and how **tradition influences modern belief**.



🧠 Core Jewish Beliefs About the Messiah – Jewish Beliefs [4/5]

The **Messiah** (*Moshiach* = “anointed one”) is believed by many Jews to be a future **human leader** who will bring **peace, justice**, and restore the **Kingdom of God**. This belief is rooted in **Tenakh prophecies** and developed through rabbinic teachings. Beliefs differ between **Orthodox** and **Reform** Jews.

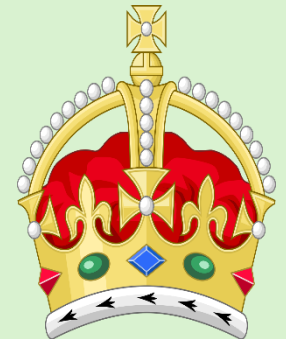
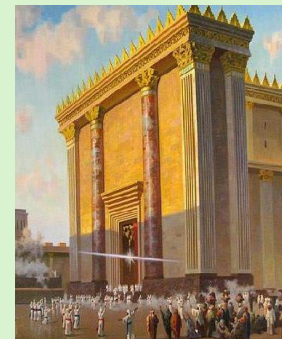
Belief	What it means	Who believes it?
The Messiah	A future king from David’s line, anointed by God	Orthodox Jews expect a real individual
Messianic Age	Future time of global peace and justice	Reform Jews focus on the era, not a person
Role of the Messiah	Rebuild Temple, gather Jews to Israel, bring peace	Based on prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah
Descendant of David	Will come from King David’s family line	Seen in 2 Samuel 7:12–16
Chosen by God	Will rule with wisdom and fear of God	Isaiah 11 describes Messiah’s character
Not divine	The Messiah is not God	Judaism rejects any idea of divine incarnation

👤 Maimonides’ Link

- Maimonides’ **13 Principles of Faith** include belief in the coming of the **Messiah**, even if he delays.
- In his *Mishneh Torah*, he taught the Messiah will be a great political and religious leader, who restores the Temple and Jewish law.

📌 Why This Belief Matters

- Gives **hope** to Jews in times of suffering and exile.
- Shapes beliefs about **justice, peace**, and the **future of the world**.
- Encourages Jews to **prepare the world** by doing good – especially in Reform Judaism.



🧠 Core Jewish Beliefs About Moral Principles – Jewish Beliefs [5/5]

Jewish morality is shaped by the **Torah**, the **mitzvot** (commandments), and the belief that **life is holy**. Jews are taught to act justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). All human life is sacred because it is **created in the image of God** (*b'tzelem Elohim* – Genesis 1:27).

Principle	What it means	Why it matters
Sanctity of Life	Life is sacred and God-given	Only God can give or take life – influences abortion, euthanasia, etc.
Pikuach Nefesh	Saving a life overrides other laws	Breaking Shabbat or fasting rules is allowed if life is at risk
Tikkun Olam	Repairing the world through justice and kindness	Encourages Jews to take social action and protect creation
Tzedakah	Justice and charity (obligation, not choice)	Giving money, time, or care to others as a duty
Gemilut Chasadim	Acts of loving-kindness	Voluntary kindness without expecting reward
Free Will	God gives humans the choice to do good or evil	Humans are morally responsible for their actions

🧑 Maimonides' Link

- Maimonides taught that **ethical behaviour**, **observance of mitzvot**, and **intentions** matter in God's judgement.
- His writings support **pikuach nefesh** and the idea that preserving life takes priority.

📌 Why This Belief Matters

- Shapes Jewish responses to **medical ethics**, **social justice**, and **charity**.
- Encourages Jews to live responsibly and care for others.
- Connects beliefs to **real-life actions**, not just spiritual beliefs

