

Judaism



Who is a Jew?

- Not necessarily an adherent of the religion of Judaism (50% of Israeli Jews, and U.S. Jews, are secular)
- “Anyone declaring in good faith that he is a Jew, and who does not profess any other religion, shall be registered as a Jew.” Israel 1958

Who is a Jew?

- “For the purposes of this Law [of return], a Jew is someone born to a Jewish mother, or converted [to the Jewish faith] and (s)he is not a member of another religion.”
- Messianic Jew
- Not a “race”

Jewish Diaspora





The community of Jews of Color in the United States is growing & flourishing.

Jews come in all colors

HISTORY of JUDAISM

1st temple period

2nd temple period

Biblical Judaism
1400 B.C.-331 B.C.

Hellenic Judaism
331 B.C. - 135 A.D.

Old Testament

New Test.

Rabbinical Judaism
135 A.D. - 1750 A.D.

Modern Judaism
1750 A.D.- Present

Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

1. Holy Land conquered by Alexander the Great in 332 BCE

Hellenization -- Influence of Greek language and culture.

Septuagint: Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible beginning c.250 BCE.

Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

Three Sects (142 - 63 BC)

- Pharisees: Hebrew “*perushim*”—“*separatists*”
 - * stressed interpretation and practice of the Law
 - * keeping pure...and keeping separate from those who were not pure
 - * spiritual fathers of rabbinical Judaism

Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

Three Sects (142 - 63 BC)

- Sadducees
 - * Elites; priests
 - * Controlled the Temple
 - * Written Torah only

Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

Three Sects (142 - 63 BC)

- Essenes
 - * Disgusted with corrupt temple & priesthood
 - * Left Jerusalem to live in the desert
 - * Awaited Messiah(s)
 - * Qumran; *Dead Sea Scrolls*

Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

3. Roman Rule Begins (64 BC)

4. Jesus:

Birth c. 5 BC

Death, Burial &
Resurrection c. 30
AD



Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

5. Destruction of the Temple by Titus, 70 AD





Arch of Titus
in Rome



Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

6. 132-135 CE Simon bar Kochba rebellion

Jerusalem leveled by Emperor Hadrian



7. Jewish people expelled; Second major Jewish diaspora (dispersion)

Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

9. Moses ben Maimon (1135-1204), also known as *Maimonides* or *Rambam*
“From Moses to Moses there is none like Moses”.



9. Maimonides

- Moses ben Maimon (1135-1204), also known as *Maimonides* or *Rambam*
- “*From Moses to Moses there is none like Moses*”.
- *The Mishnah Torah*
- 613 Mitzvot (“Commandments”)
- “The Thirteen Principles of Faith.”

Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

- 10. From 5th Century onward—persecution from Christians... and Muslims after the 7th
- 11. 1894: Dreyfus trial in France; Theodore Herzl founded political Zionism



Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

12. Holocaust: Jan. 30, 1933 - May 8, 1944



Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

13. Israel statehood was declared May 14, 1948.

STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As “Medinat Yisrael” (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the

same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a med-

iator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine went through what by all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history.

For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the few hundred Haganah men and women in the Kfar Etzion bloc of settlements near Hebron. Their surrender to a fully equipped superior foreign force desperately in need of a victory was a foregone conclusion. What could not be known, with no communications since Thursday morning, was whether and to what extent the Red Cross and the Truce Comsuls would secure civilized conditions for prisoners and wounded, and proper respect for the dead. Doubts on some of these anxious questions have now been resolved.

On Friday afternoon, from Tel Aviv, came the expected announcement of the Jewish State, and its official naming at birth, “Medinat Yisrael”—State of Israel, with the swearing in of the first Council of Government. The

der of Jewish settlements in North-Eastern Galilee.

The Security Council met yesterday in a special session to consider action on the invasion of Palestine by member states of the U.N.

JEWS TAKE OVER SECURITY ZONES

The Battle for Jerusalem, which began when the British forces withdrew on Friday morning, continued all day Friday and yesterday. The crackle of small-arms fire and explosions of mortar shells were still being heard in the early hours of this morning as the battle entered its third day.

Repeated efforts on Friday evening and again on Saturday by the U.N. Truce Commission to bring about a “cease fire” were brought to naught when the Arab representatives failed to agree within the specified time limit.

On Friday morning, Jewish forces entered the Russian Compound and Zone C to reoccupy the buildings requisitioned from Jews last year. This operation was almost

Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

Kol Israel, the Tel Aviv broadcasting station, reported at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon that Tel Aviv had been bombed three times in the previous evening and morning, and that one plane had been shot down and its Egyptian pilot taken prisoner.

In the first raid, four planes attacked from a height of 3000 feet. Two dropped bombs, while the others strafed the city. Little damage was caused. In the second attack two hours later, the airport to the north of the city was bombed, and an Air France plane parked there was damaged. The third raid was launched shortly before midday, but the planes were driven off without causing any damage.

Two settlements in the Negev had also been attacked from the air, the radio report-

ing. A country-wide blackout was ordered by Air Raid Precaution Headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Mr. David Ben Gurion, the Prime Minister, broadcast from Tel Aviv to the people of America yesterday morning. As he spoke, Egyptian planes were bombing the city.

In the north, the settlements of Ein Gvi and Shaar Hagolan and Dan had been shelled, but no further details were available.

Kalandia airfield was taken by the Jewish army on Friday morning, shortly after the High Commissioner had left there by plane for Haifa. The field was evacuated, together with the neighbouring settlement of Ataroth, on Friday night. The settlement itself was burnt by Arabs yes-

U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE

WASHINGTON, Saturday.

—Ten minutes after the termination of the British Mandate on Friday, the White House released a formal statement by President Truman that the U.S. Government intended to recognize the Provisional Jewish Government as the *de facto* authority representing the Jewish State.

The U.S. is also considering lifting the arms embargo but it is not known whether to Palestine only or the entire Middle East, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Jewish Provisional Government.

The White House press secretary, Mr. Charles Ross, told correspondents today that reaction

Proclamation by Head Of Government

The creation of “Medinat Yisrael”, the State of Israel, was proclaimed at midnight on Friday by Mr. David Ben Gurion, until then Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and now head of the State's Provisional Council of Government.



The first act of the Council of Government, as announced by its head, was to abolish all legislation of the 1939 White Paper of the late Mandatory Power, particularly the Ordinances and Orders relating to immigration and land transfer.

In the declaration of independence, Mr. Ben Gurion called on the Arabs of Palestine to restore peace, assuring them full civic rights and full representation in all governmental organs of the State.

Mr. Ben Gurion prefaced the declaration with a review of the historic connection of the Jewish people with the

14. 1967 Six Day War



Important History after the “Old Testament” Period

15. Israel reached its 60 year birthday

May, 2008



Scriptures and Authorities

TANACH: The Hebrew Bible

TORAH: the five books of Moses



Scriptures and Authorities

TANACH: The Hebrew Bible

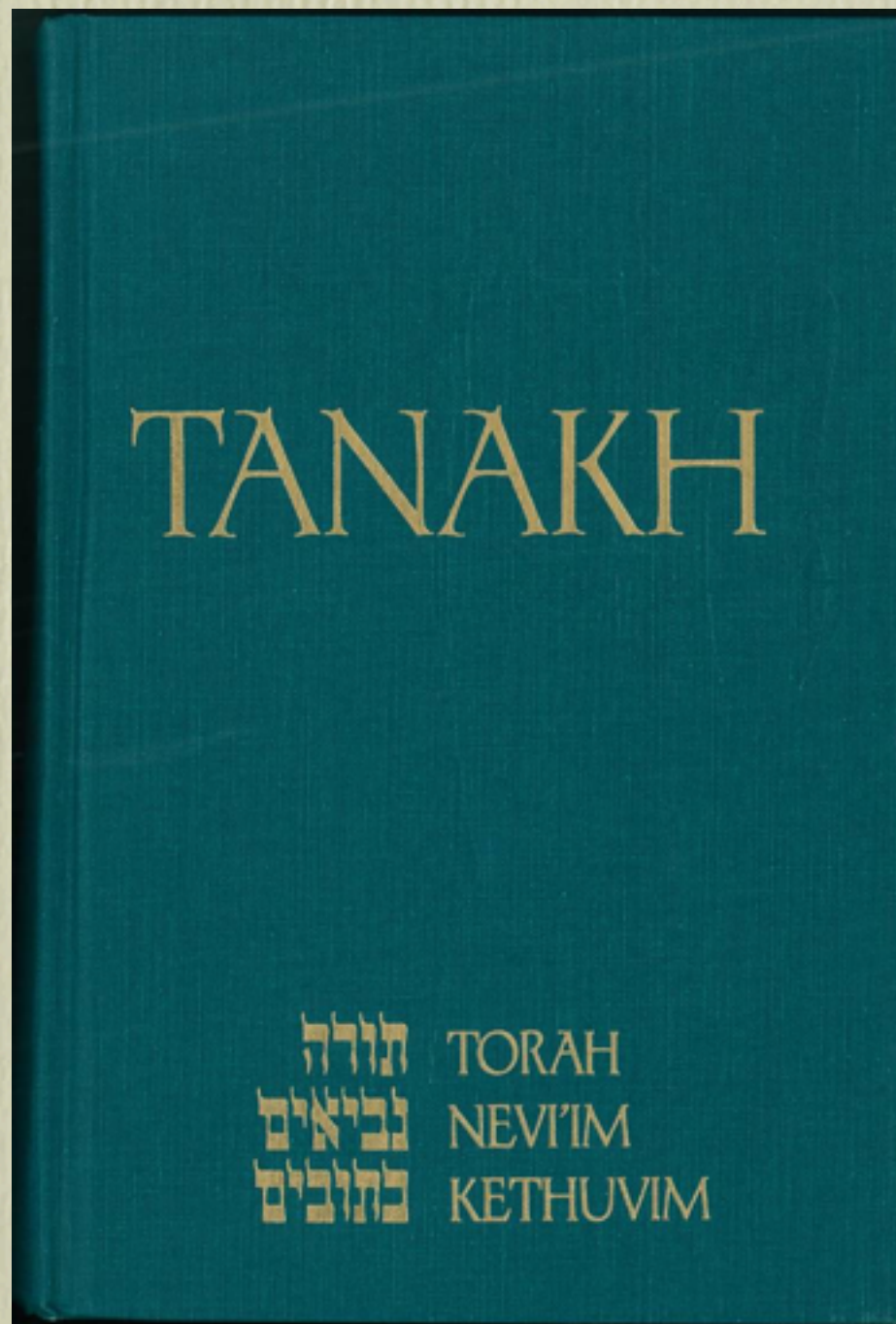
Nevi'im: The Prophets



Scriptures and Authorities

TANACH: The Hebrew Bible

Ketuvim: The Writings



Scriptures and Authorities

THE TALMUD


HISTORY of JUDAISM

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Scriptures and Authorities

THE TALMUD

Mishnah: Oral Torah in writing

Gemara: Commentary on the Mishnah

[illegible]

Scriptures and Authorities

THE TALMUD

Halakhah -- lit., “*Path one walks.*”;
Jewish Law; legal discussion

Aggadata -- (lit., “*telling*”)
History, philosophy, ethics,
legends and folklore

Scriptures and Authorities

MIDRASH

Compilation of biblical commentary, interpretation and rabbinic insights into life and religion.

Word can refer to a particular interpretation of a verse or a particular method of interpretation.

Scriptures and Authorities

BOOK OF SPLENDOR



Branches of Judaism

1. Orthodox

2. Conservative

3. Reform

4. Secular

5. Kabbalah

Branches of Judaism

Orthodox Judaism

Complete commitment to
written *and* oral law.

Varying degrees of adaptation to
modern life.

Branches of Judaism

Orthodox Judaism

1. Modern Orthodox
2. Yeshiva University
of New York City
3. Rabbinical Council
of America
4. 800 Congregations
in U.S.



Branches of Judaism

Orthodox Judaism

The Hasidim

Israel ben Eliezer (Ba'al Shem Tov) 1700-1760

Emphasize spiritual fervor and mystical encounters with God.



Branches of Judaism

Orthodox Judaism

Traditional
Orthodox

Traditional dress

Avoidance of
Secular Subjects



Branches of Judaism

Orthodox Judaism

Ultra -Ultra
Orthodox

Believe Jews must
return to Torah
practice before they
have the right to the
land of Israel.



Branches of Judaism

Conservative Judaism

- Uniquely American
- Seeks middle ground between traditional religion and modern world.
- Jewish Theological Seminary, 1887
- Rabbinical Assembly of America
- Largest American Jewish denomination; 1 million

Reconnect, Rediscover and Celebrate...

Come Home to Conservative Judaism™





EMPIRE REGION

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

For more information about Conservative congregations and programs in Empire Region, visit our website at <http://uscj.org/empire>, call us at 518.438.2052, or email us at empire@uscj.org.

Ohav Shalom	Albany
Temple Israel	Albany
Temple Beth Tzedek	Anastasi
Sons of Israel	Anastasi
B'nai Israel	Auburn
Beacon Hebrew Alliance	Beacon
Beth Shalom-Chema Shas	Bewitt
B'nai Israel	Flushing
Shalom Tefila	Glens Falls
Knesseth Israel	Gouverville
Temple Beth Am	Henrietta
Temple Beth Joseph	Henrietta
Temple Beth El	Horwell
Temple Beth El	Itasca
Abraham Israel	Kingston
Grandview Palace Synagogue	Liberty
Temple Beth Israel	Niagara Falls
Anshe Sophien	Ogdensburg
Temple Beth El	Oswego
Knesseth Israel	Pittsfield, MA
Temple Beth El	Port Jervis
Temple Beth El	Poughkeepsie
Temple Beth David	Rochester
Temple Beth El	Rochester
Rutland Jewish Center	Rutland, VT
Shoara T'Pile	Saratoga Springs
Agudat Achim	Schenectady
Temple Adath Yeshurun	Syracuse
Temple Beth El	Tray
Temple Beth El	Utica
Temple Israel	Vestal
Degel Israel	Watertown
B'nai Israel	Woodbourne

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Branches of Judaism

Reform Judaism

Liberal Judaism, begun in 19th century Germany

All Jewish laws are fluid and open to reinterpretation by modern culture.

Central Conference of American Rabbis

Hebrew Union College,
Cincinnati

800 synagogues; 1 million



Branches of Judaism

Secular Judaism

- Family, ethnic and/or cultural connection to the Jewish people.
- They may be atheists, but not necessarily
- 50% of Israeli and American Jewish people are secular

Branches of Judaism

Kabbalah-- “Mystical Judaism”

What is KABBALAH?

Celebrities flock to a once obscure branch of Jewish mysticism. So just what are Madonna and Demi up to?

Forget crystals and the lotus position. Today many celebs seeking the light—besides the spotlight, that is—have turned to Kabbalah, a form of Jewish mysticism, as a path to inner peace.

What is Kabbalah?

Hebrew for "received tradition," Kabbalah (Ka-ba-LAH) refers to the study of ancient texts, most notably the Zohar, a 13th-century commentary on the Torah (the five books of Moses). Kabbalah holds that God is made up of 10 "emanations," which include compassion, strength, wisdom and grace. By studying them, humans can get closer to an unknowable God.

What role does Kabbalah play in Judaism?

Mainstream Judaism studies the writings of the Torah; Kabbalah looks for more meaning in the written words.

How does it do that?

Some tools include studying the Zohar and, for some scholars, numerology. For instance, the letters in ha-Teva, Hebrew for "nature," have the same numeric value as the letters of Elohim, one of the names of God, "leading many Kabbalists to claim the divine presence was to be found in the natural world," says Eitan P. Fishbane, a professor of Jewish religious thought at L.A.'s Hebrew Union College.

Can anyone study it?

Depends who you ask. Originally "elitist and secretive," says Fishbane,

Kabbalah is considered by some Jewish leaders to be the purview of men over 40 who have studied the Torah for years. But today many religious centers and universities offer beginners a more accessible version. One of the best known: the Kabbalah Centre, which claims 400,000 students—including Madonna, Demi Moore and other stars—in 50 locations.

What's the appeal for celebs?

"I've learned from studying Kabbalah that if your happiness is based on people approving of everything you do, you're doomed to fail," says Madonna. Because Kabbalah also emphasizes God's female aspects, it is a draw for "feminist thinkers," notes Fishbane.

What do others think of the celebrity devotees?

Many theologians frown on those who look to Kabbalah for a quick spiritual high. The Kabbalah Centre has drawn particular criticism. "It's a very slick operation that has very little to do with traditional Kabbalah," says bestselling author and Kabbalah scholar Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. "They are to Kabbalah what Disneyland is to the Metropolitan Opera: There's a lot of hoopla and fun, but there ain't much opera." •



Madonna and her son Rocco sport signature bracelets. His sister Lourdes is studying Kabbalah.



FROM ANCIENT TRADITION TO FASHION ACCESSORY

The bracelet known as Rachel's string (for the string wrapped around the Jewish matriarch's tomb) is worn by some Kabbalah students, like **Demi Moore** (above left) to ward off negativity. Ever trendy, **Winona Ryder** donned one at her shoplifting trial.



Rosie O'Donnell and Courtney Love have studied Kabbalah, and Roseanne teaches a course at the Kabbalah Centre in L.A.



SPIRITUALITY—AND A SHOPPING BAG

- **Water.** Sold at Kabbalah Centres for two bucks a bottle, "Kabbalah water" (a Madonna favorite) is spring water blessed by a rabbi and "imbued with positive energy," says the Centre's Rabbi Yehuda Berg (who teaches Madonna). Scholar Fishbane dismisses the notion as "a new mystic invention."
- **Necklaces.** The Centre says this one helps protect from "the evil eye."
- **T-shirts.** They sport Hebrew letters, like Madonna's tattoo in her *Die Another Day* video, that the Centre says aid in "destroying your ego."



BELIEFS:

Thirteen Principles of Faith

- 1.** I believe with perfect faith that G-d is the Creator and Ruler of all things. He alone has made, does make, and will make all things.
- 2.** I believe with perfect faith that G-d is One. There is no unity that is in any way like His. He alone is our G-d. He was, He is and He will be.
- 3.** I believe with perfect faith that G-d does not have a body. Physical concepts do not apply to Him. There is nothing whatsoever that resembles Him at all.

BELIEFS:

Thirteen Principles of Faith

- 4.** I believe with perfect faith that G-d is first and last.
- 5.** I believe with perfect faith that it is only proper to pray to G-d. One may not pray to anyone or anything else.
- 6.** I believe with perfect faith that all the words of the prophets are true.

BELIEFS:

Thirteen Principles of Faith

- 7.** I believe with perfect faith that the prophecy of Moses is absolutely true. He was the chief of all prophets, both before and after him.
- 8.** I believe with perfect faith that the entire Torah that we now have is that which was given to Moses.
- 9.** I believe with perfect faith that this Torah will not be changed, and that there will never be another given by G-d.

BELIEFS:

Thirteen Principles of Faith

IO. I believe with perfect faith that G-d knows all of man's deeds and thoughts.

II. I believe with perfect faith that G-d rewards those who keep His commandments, and punishes those who transgress Him.

BELIEFS:

Thirteen Principles of Faith

I2. I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah. However long it takes, I will await His coming every day.

I3. I believe with perfect faith that the dead will be brought back to life when G-d wills it to happen.

BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

MOST HOLY GOD

- ♦ The name *YHWH* is never said out loud or written in literature.
- ♦ Even the word “God”, while spoken, is often written without the “o”.
- ♦ *Adonai* (“Lord”) or *HaShem* (“The Name”) said in place of *YHWH* when reading the Torah

BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

PRAYER

- Shema: “*Shema Yisrael adonai elohenu, adonai ehad*” “Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.” Deuteronomy 6:4
- Orthodox Jews pray three times a day.
- Blessings
- Prayer has taken the place of animal sacrifice.

BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

PRAYER

Hosea 14:1-2 “Return, O Israel to the LORD your God, for you have fallen because of your sin. Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him: ‘Forgive all guilt and accept what is good; instead of bulls we will pay [the offering] of our lips.’”

(JPS Tanakh version)

BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

SIN AND SALVATION

- Human beings enter the world with a pure soul that is untainted by sin (no “sin nature”).
- Human beings sin because of imperfection.
- Sin is always an action — thoughts or attitudes are not sin unless they turn to action
- Forgiveness for sin comes through repentance, prayer and good deeds--and ultimately through God’s mercy.

BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

SIN AND SALVATION

- Judaism focuses on the here and now, rather than the afterlife, although they do believe in a “world to come”.
- Judaism teaches the immortality of the soul and the ultimate resurrection of the dead.

BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

THE COVENANT

- Only Jewish people are bound to the Mosaic Covenant. (Many dislike the term “chosen people”.)
- They fulfill their purpose to be a “light to the Gentiles” by living faithful to that Covenant.
- Judaism does not proselytize, except to call non-practicing Jews back to the Covenant.
- Judaism teaches that Gentiles are only bound to faith and God’s universal law, expressed in the Noahic Covenant.

Noahic Covenant

1. Do not commit idolatry.
2. Do not blaspheme God's name.
3. Do not murder.
4. Do not commit adultery.
5. Do not steal.
6. Establish courts of justice.
7. Do not cut flesh from a living animal.

BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

MACHIACH: THE MESSIAH

According to Orthodox Judaism:

“The Messiah will be a God-fearing, pious Jew, who is both a great Torah scholar and a great leader as well. He is a direct descendant of King David, and will be anointed as the new Jewish King.”

BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

MACHIACH: THE MESSIAH

Jews can hasten the Messiah's coming by returning to Torah practice, in particular keeping the Sabbath.

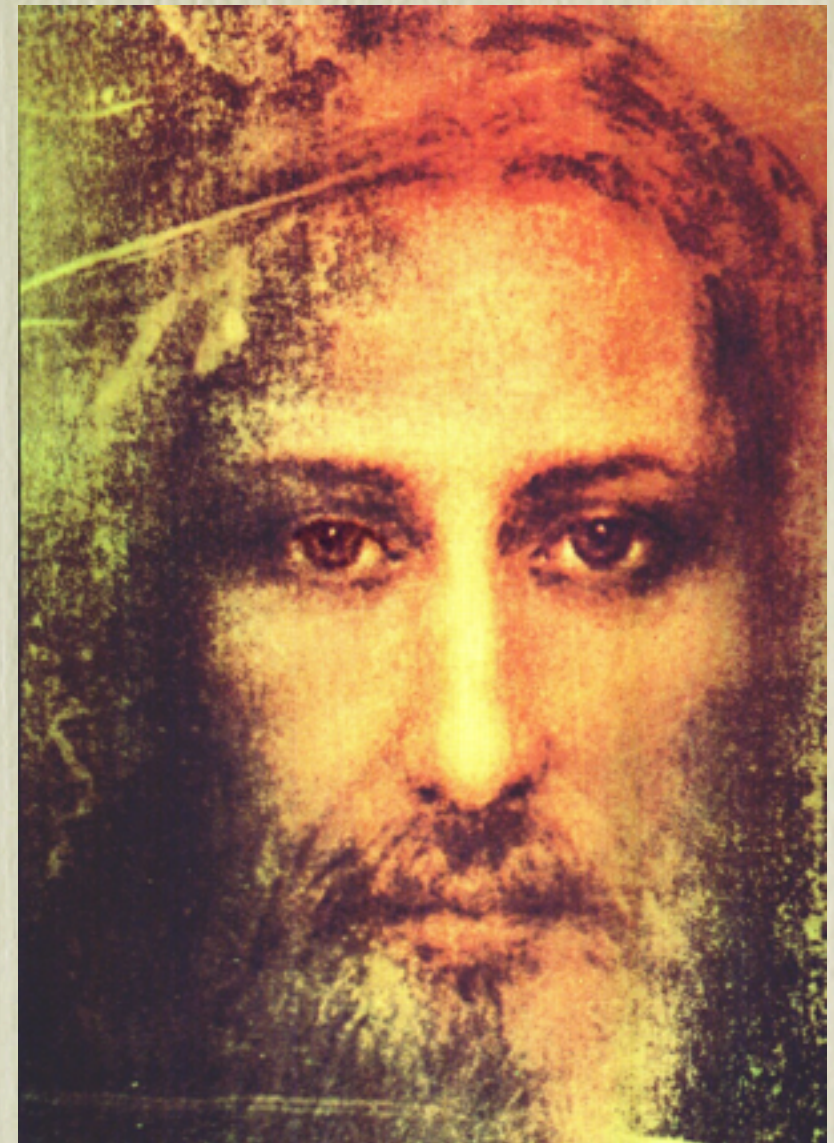
BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

JESUS THE MESSIAH

♦ Who was Jesus?

- 1st Century Jewish Man
- Fulfilled prophecy about the Messiah
- Kept the Law; miracle worker



BELIEFS

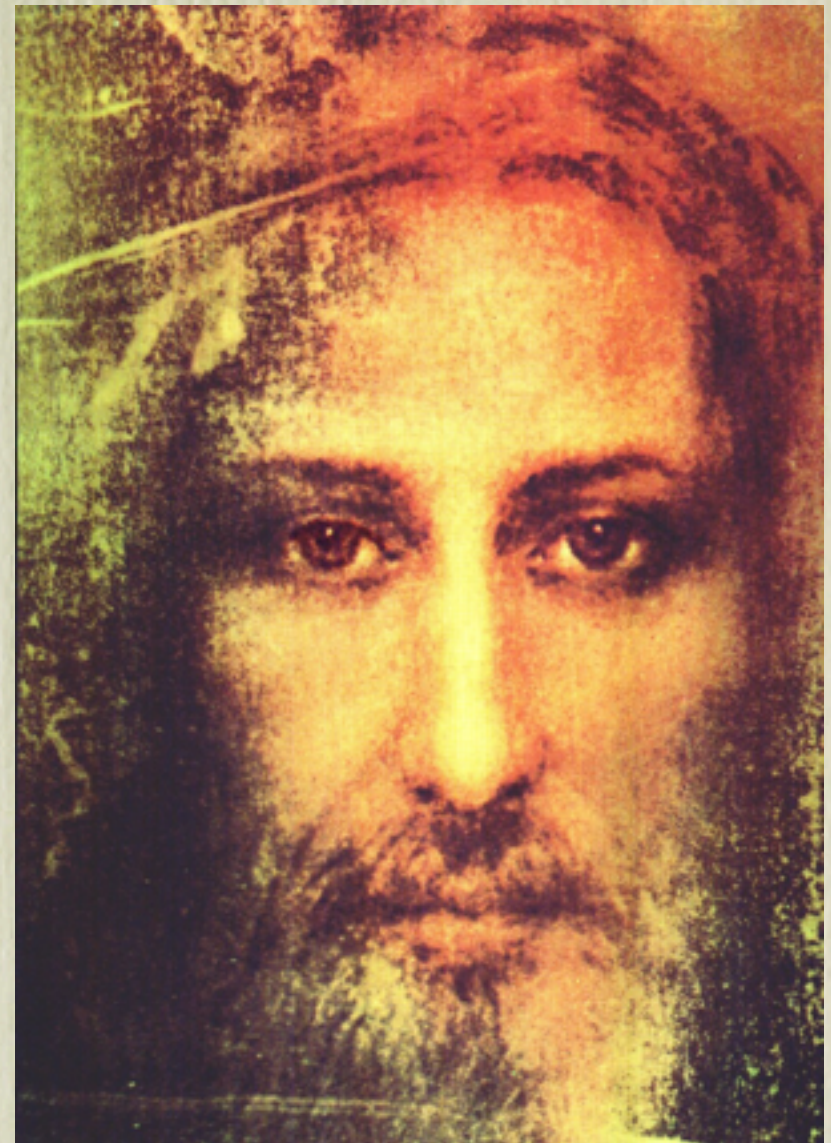
(Orthodox or Conservative)

JESUS THE MESSIAH

♦ Who was Jesus?

“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in the Scriptures concerning himself.”

Luke 24:27



BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

JESUS THE MESSIAH

♦ Who were the first members of the first church?

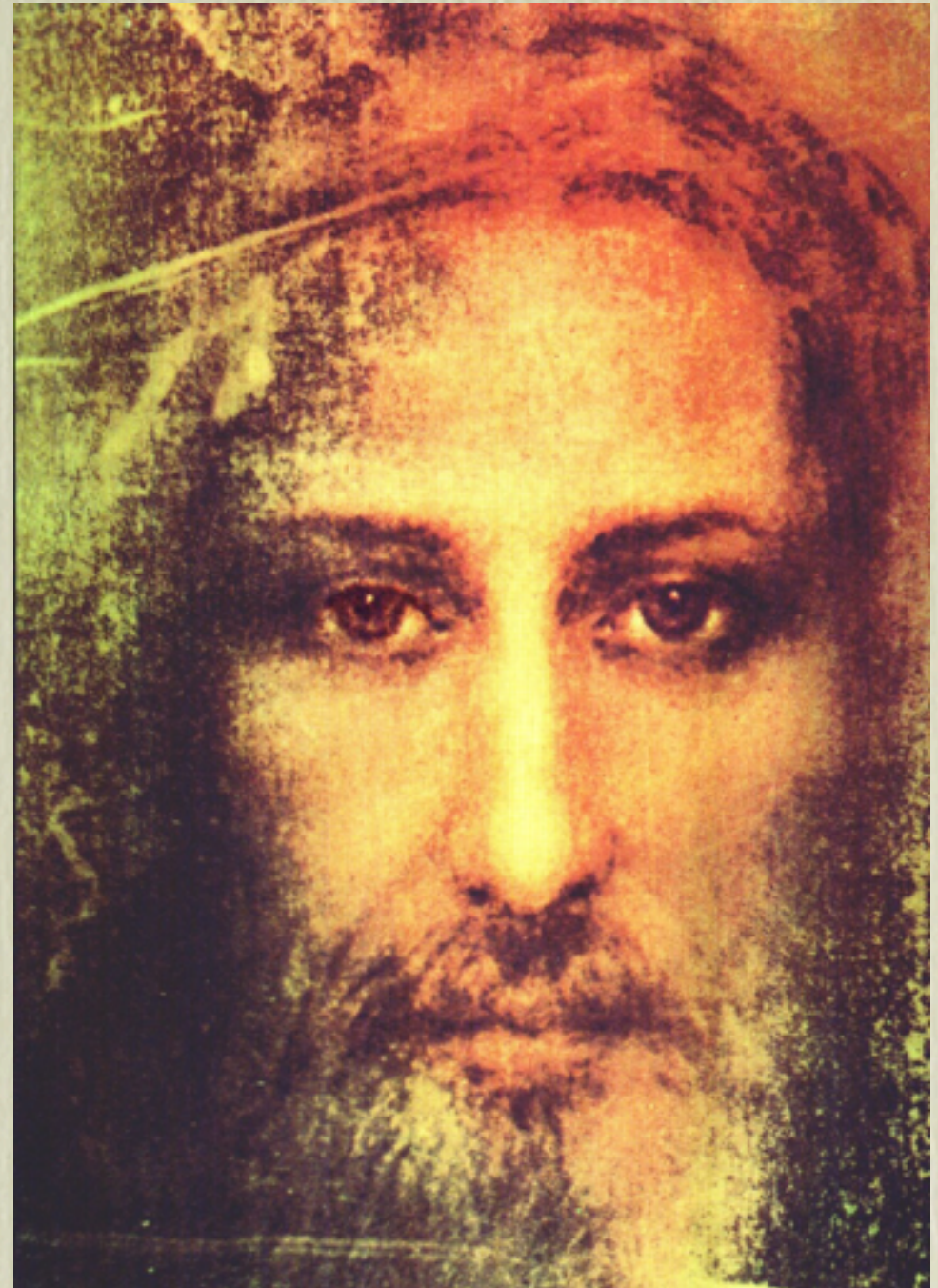


BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

WHY DO SOME JEWISH PEOPLE REJECT YESHUA?

- They claim he did not fulfill all the messianic prophecies
- He did not build the 3rd temple or gather all Jews back to the land of Israel.
- He did not bring about universal peace.



“Christians say, true, he didn’t do those things, but he will when he returns once more. Jews say, if he didn’t do them then, he wasn’t the one. And if he does come back and performs what a messiah must do, we’ll be happy to call him, or anyone else who then accomplishes the job, the real Messiah.”

Rabbi Benjamin Blech, Yeshiva University,
NYC

BELIEFS

(Orthodox or Conservative)

WHY DO SOME JEWISH PEOPLE REJECT YESHUA?

The whole idea
that God could
“incarnate” is an
objection.



“For the Jew, the very meaning of monotheism is negated when a spiritual, invisible God is replaced by, or put in partnership with, mortal form. And most significantly of all, death denies divinity, for doesn't saying God died on the cross prove he wasn't really God at all?”



PRACTICES

(Orthodox or Conservative)

Shabbot: The Sabbath Day

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.”

Exodus 20:8-11

39 Categories of “Work”

- ♦ Carrying
- ♦ Burning
- ♦ Extinguishing
- ♦ Finishing
- ♦ Writing
- ♦ Erasing
- ♦ Cooking
- ♦ Washing
- ♦ Sewing
- ♦ Tearing
- ♦ Knotting
- ♦ Untying
- ♦ Shaping
- ♦ Plowing
- ♦ Planting
- ♦ Reaping
- ♦ Harvesting
- ♦ Threshing
- ♦ Winnowing
- ♦ Selecting
- ♦ Sifting
- ♦ Grinding
- ♦ Kneading
- ♦ Combing
- ♦ Spinning
- ♦ Dying
- ♦ Chain-stitching
- ♦ Warping
- ♦ Weaving
- ♦ Unraveling
- ♦ Building
- ♦ Demolishing
- ♦ Trapping
- ♦ Shearing
- ♦ Slaughtering
- ♦ Skinning
- ♦ Tanning
- ♦ Smoothing
- ♦ Marking

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- ♦ Marking

Jesus re: The Sabbath (Mark 2-3)

The Pharisees: “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath! (picking heads of grain and munching them)

Jesus: “Have you never read what David did?” He and his men were hungry and in need, so they ate the consecrated bread. He kept the “spirit” of the Sabbath law because it is always lawful to do good or save life on the Sabbath.

Jesus: “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

PRACTICES

(Orthodox or Conservative)

KOSHER: Fit or Proper

1. Meat, Poultry, Fish
2. Kosher Slaughtering
3. Milk and Meat don't mix

Jesus re Kosher Food

“Listen and understand. What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean’, but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him ‘unclean’.” Matthew 15:10

PRACTICES

(Orthodox or Conservative)

SYNAGOGUE



Holidays

1. Purim

2. Passover

3. Lag B'Omer

4. Shavuot

5. Tish B'Av

6. Rosh
Hashanah

7. Yom Kippur

8. Sukkot

9. Simchat Torah

10. Chanukah

“If some of the branches have been broken off, and you [Gentiles], though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not boast over those branches. . . They were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. . . If they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.”

Romans 11:17-24

