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**Year 11 Knowledge  
Organisers**



# Year 11 Knowledge Organiser: Arguments for the Existence of God

<p><b>Revelations:</b>  <b>Definition:</b> When God reveals himself / is present in the world.  <b>Types:</b>                  Natural revelation – revealed in nature.                  Special revelation – revealed to or through the prophets.</p>	<p><b>Examples of revelations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God revealed himself to Abraham and Moses..</li> <li>• God revealed himself as Jesus.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The design argument:</b> (Teleological argument.) </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence in the world shows there is design, such as trees, thumb print and the eye.</li> <li>• This shows the world was designed well and with a purpose</li> <li>• The only logical designer for the world is God.</li> </ul> <p><i>William Paley made an argument using an analogy of a watch. He suggested that if you come across a watch in a field, you would not assume the parts had come together on their own but instead would understand that a designer has put them together with a purpose.</i></p>	<p><b>The Cosmological argument:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everything in the world has a cause and effect – this means there is a chain of events that cause something else.</li> <li>• The first cause in the universe must therefore not be affected by other causes.</li> <li>• There is a first cause and this first cause must be God as only he is outside time and space. </li> </ul>	<p><b>The existence of suffering:</b>                  How can an omnipotent, omniscient and omnibenevolent God allow evil and suffering in the world. This leads to inconsistencies in what is believed about God. This is because we know there is both <i>natural</i> and <i>moral</i> evil in the world so either God does not exist, or he does not act which goes against his nature. This is called the inconsistent triad. some atheists use this as proof God does not exist.</p> 
<p><b>Visions:</b>  <b>Definition:</b> Seeing important Saints, Angels, Jesus, Mary or God.  <b>Types:</b>                  Corporeal visions – A person physically sees something                   Imaginative vision – Sees something in their dreams or imagination.</p>	<p><b>Examples of visions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abraham has a vision of God*</li> <li>• Joan of Arc.</li> <li>• Moses and Elijah appear to Jesus.</li> <li>• Jacob's ladder </li> <li>• St Bernadette*</li> <li>• Visions at Fatima*</li> </ul>	<p><b>Argument for and against:</b>  <i>For</i> – Shows an intelligent perfect designer.  <i>Against</i> – there is a lack of design e.g. volcanoes, hurricanes and earthquakes.</p>	<p><b>Argument for and against:</b>  <i>For</i> – it is compatible with science.  <i>Against</i> – why does the complex world need a cause.</p>	<p><b>Solutions to the problem of suffering:</b>                  The Bible explains how God has a plan and the need for suffering, The story of <i>Job</i> is an example of this. Theologians suggest that suffering is a consequence of God giving humans free will and cannot intervene as he gave us the freedom and conscience to make the right moral decisions.</p>
<p><b>Miracles:</b>  <b>Definition:</b> An event that breaks the laws of science so must be God.  <b>Types:</b>                  Healing – such as curing people.                  Natural – such as calming seas and generating food and wine.</p>	<p><b>Examples of miracles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeding the five thousand.</li> <li>• turning water into wine.</li> <li>• Healing a blind man</li> <li>• Walking on water</li> </ul> <p>Non-Biblical examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lourdes – bathing in the healing waters / site of St Bernadette</li> </ul>	<p><b>Arguments for and against the existence of God! (points can be adapted to fit with visions, miracles and religious experiences questions)</b></p>	<p>Omnipotent: all-powerful                  Omniscient: all-knowing                  Omnibenevolent: all-loving                  Eternal: outside time and space.</p>	<p><b>Arguments for and against the existence of God! (points can be adapted to fit with visions, miracles and religious experiences questions)</b></p>
<p><b>Religious Experience:</b>  <b>Definition:</b> An event where people feel they have direct contact with God.  <b>Types:</b>                  Numinous – feeling of something greater.                  Conversion – change in religion                  Prayer – communication with God</p>	<p><b>Examples of religious experiences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Paul on the road to Damascus (Saul converted to Christianity when he experienced Jesus became know St Paul).</li> <li>• SOWA "When your life is changed by having an experience of God or by giving yourself to God." - Acts 9: 1-19.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Arguments for the existence of God:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthens faith e.g. Lourdes.</li> <li>• Someone may have a conversion</li> <li>• The Catholic church investigates all claims made.</li> <li>• There is a reason why not every miracle is granted – God has a plan.</li> <li>• It reveals God's nature - as an omnipotent being, God is not bound by laws of nature – so we may just not be able to understand how miracles and visions happen.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Arguments against the existence of God:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lack of evidence – the experience is often brief and experienced only by one person so cannot be validated.</li> <li>• Something else may have cause it – it doesn't have to be God</li> <li>• Scientific explanations or just a coincidence</li> <li>• Use of stimulants – There are various drugs or alcohol which relax the user and may make them more open to religious experiences but are possible the side effects of the drug.</li> <li>• Hallucinations could be mistaken for visions. They can be caused by a variety of conditions e.g. anxiety, stress, grief, migraine, Parkinson's disease, and epilepsy.</li> </ul>	

# Year 11 Knowledge Organiser: Relationships

## Marriage:

Catholics believe that marriage comes as a gift from God, because of this the vision of marriage is based on the Bible and is shown in the teachings and practices of the church. Marriage is also a sacrament for Catholics.

The four main purposes or marks of marriage are :

- Lifelong
- Loving
- Exclusive
- Fruitful



In all marriages that take place, the couple make a legal contract by signing the register and this can be dissolved by divorce. However, the couple also enter a covenant with each other where their love is sealed and strengthened by God's love, and this can never be dissolved by human power. Annulment can be granted but this means that the marriage never took place. Humanists believe that sex and marriage are matters for the individual to decide.

## Sexual relationships:

The Catholic Church is clear on its teaching that sex should only take place between a man and a woman who are married to each other. Therefore, sex outside of marriage is considered a sin and adultery. "Thou shall not commit adultery"

In 2014 same sex marriage became legal in England, which reflects a change societies tolerance, but same sex couples cannot demand a church wedding.

Humanists expect sexual relations to be based on respect and trust and can be between anyone. Humanists believe that sex and marriage are matters for the individual to decide.



## Divorce :

Catholics do not accept divorce but recognise annulments, but this means the marriage was never valid, thus one of the four marks / external signs was missing when the marriage took place.

## Family planning:

The Catholic Church states and form of artificial contraception is wrong as sex is a gift from God and for the purpose of having children.

Other Christian denominations accept that contraction can help control the population, prevent sexually transmitted disease and prevent an unwanted pregnancy, Catholics believe that Natural family planning (NFP) is the only acceptable way to controlling conception. Therefore, they believe that other forms of contraception such as using condoms, the pill or the implant goes against the Church's teachings and God's plan.

Catholics believe life starts at conception and therefore abortion is wrong as humans are made in God's image.

### Keywords:

**Adultery:** A sexual act between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner.

**Civil Partnership:** A legal ceremony giving a homosexual couple similar legal rights as a husband and wife.

**Cohabitation:** Living together without being married.

**Contraception:** Intentionally preventing pregnancy from occurring.

**Conception:** the process of becoming pregnant involving fertilization

**Faithfulness:** Staying with your marriage partner and having sex only with them.

**Homosexuality:** Sexual attraction to the same sex.

**Pre-marital Sex:** Having sex before marriage.

**Procreation:** To bring about a new life in the form of a child.

**Promiscuity:** Having sex with a number of partners without commitment

**Re-marriage:** Marrying again after being divorced from a previous marriage.

What will Catholics say about these types of contraception?

Catholics accept natural family planning...	Catholics disagree with artificial contraception...
The Church teaches that Christians should practice responsible parenthood.	Sex is for procreation "be fruitful and multiply" and artificial is stopping this.
Humanae Vitae declared natural forms of contraception to be allowed as they do not separate unitive and procreative purposes of sex.	Some artificial has early abortion effects e.g. coil/MAP and Catholics believe life begins at conception.
These forms of contraception require a loving, stable relationship and shows commitment and concern for the partners.	Contraception is one of the major causes of sexual promiscuity, broken families, divorce rates and STD/Is.
They involve no drug taking as they are natural.	They involve drug taking and are therefore changing a woman's body.



## The Family:

### Types of families:

- Nuclear families: This means that there are children and parents living together as a unit
- Extended families: Children, parents, Grand parent, aunts, uncles, cousins all living near each other.
- Blended families (Re-constituted) : Two sets of families come together as one after a divorce and re-marry (step-siblings).
- Same sex-parent families: A homosexual couple raising children.
- Single parent families: One parent living alone with children after a divorce or separation.



### The importance of families:

Jesus was raised by a supportive family and grew up Jewish where being a family and involved in a community is very important. Catholics believe that families are important because it means you have unconditional support, lifelong love and will be educated and raised in the way of the Church.

### Equality for men and women:

The Catholic Church believes men and women should have equal rights in society and in the home, neither is more important. Genesis shows that God has made humanity in his own image. The only acceptance is that Catholics do not allow women to be ordained, this is unlike some other denominations who do allow female clergy.

### Supporting the family:

The Parish recognises that Families go through difficult times so act as a local and immediate source of support and help. The Parish provide help by; providing counselling, family groups, parent classes and set times for family worship to take place.

### Gender prejudice and discrimination:

Prejudice: believing people of a gender is of less importance. Discrimination: treating people differently. Some parts of the Bible can infer Gender inequality, but other parts show the important of equality. Jesus' teachings support equality for all and set an example for Catholics to follow today.

**Keywords**

**Covenant** A promise made with God.  
**Monotheistic** belief that there is only one God.  
**Talmud** also called the 'oral Torah'. The oral laws and traditions passed down from Moses.  
**Tenakh** The Hebrew Bible consisting of the Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim.  
**Torah** The first 5 books of Moses – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.  
**Shekhinah** the divine presence of God within the world.  
**Shema** the main Jewish prayer  
**Rabbi** Jewish teacher or religious leader.  
**Gentiles** Non-Jews  
**Messiah** the anointed one, king sent from God.  
**Mitzvot** commandments which set rules or guide actions.  
**Minyan** a group of ten men (Orthodox tradition) or adults (Reform tradition) over the age of 13.3  
**Pikuach Nefesh** saving a life is more important than virtually any Mitzvot.

Jews accept that God exist without question. Proof is not needed and is rarely offered. The Torah begins by stating "In the beginning, God created..." It does not tell who God is or how He was created.

Jews believe that the name of God is so Holy that it should not be spoken aloud or often written. It should also never be erased. They use other names such as Hashem 'The Name' when speaking or writing about God.

**Orthodox Jews**

Believe tradition and following the commands of the Torah are important. They believe the Torah is the literal word of God.

**Liberal/Reform Jews**

Believe the Torah should be understood as a document of its time and be interpreted in light of modern life and issues. They believe the Torah is the inspired word of God.

**Secular Jews**

Believe that they are Jewish because of their cultural or ethnic heritage but have no affiliation to a religious group.

**Year 11 Knowledge Organiser: Introduction to Judaism – Beliefs.**

**Characteristics of God.**

**God is One.** It is impossible to divide God. No other being assisted in the act of creation. God is the only being Jews should offer prayers and praise. He can not be described by physical attributes.

**God the Creator**

**Orthodox Jews** Everything in the universe was created by God.

**'And Hashem God formed the man of dust from the ground and He blew into his nostrils the soul of life; and man became a living being.'** Genesis 2:7

**Reform/Liberal Jews**

Creation story is a metaphor. They believe in evolution but that it began with God as creator.

**God as Lawgiver**

God gave the Jews the Torah – the Law- 613 Mitzvot. Revealed to the prophet Moses. They allow Jews to develop a close relationship with God.

**God is Judge**

God is a God of both JUSTICE & MERCY and he will judge every single one of us.

God gains no pleasure from judging us wrongly, however his actions are JUST.

Psalm 5:4 – "You are not a God that has pleasure in wickedness".

God will weigh our good and bad actions on scales. This is remembered during the festival of Rosh Hashanah where we then have 10 days until Yom Kippur for Jews to ask for forgiveness.

After death it is IMPOSSIBLE to repent.



**The Torah.**

**Orthodox Jews** read four times a week.

**Reform Jews** Once a week on Shabbat.

**The Talmud** is central to

Orthodox Jewish life and all Jews are encouraged to study it.

Food Laws are found in the Torah. Food that is acceptable is called Kosher. Food that is not acceptable Trefah.

Meat and dairy should not be mixed. Orthodox Jews follow all food Laws as they believe they come from God. Some Reform/Liberal Jews believe they are outdated. Most Jews will refrain from eating pork.

**How Jews experience God**

**Study of the Tenakh and Talmud** is seen as an act of worship and as such *Shekhinah* is also present.

**'If two sit together and the words between them are the Torah, then Shekhinah is in their midst.'**

**Worship**

In the synagogue a light burns in front of the ark. This represents the tabernacle where God dwelt when the Jews were travelling to the Promised land. The word *Mishkan* means tabernacle and comes from the word *Shekhinah*.

**Prayer**

Jews can pray alone or as part of the Minyan.

Today Jewish focus on a spiritual connection with the divine presence in worship, prayer and study. **Tikkun Olam** – 'doing good in the world.'

**Sanctity of life.**

God is the giver of life so life is sacred.

Most Jewish Laws can be broken to save a person's life in life threatening circumstances. This is Pikuach Nefesh. This influences how Jews approach moral and ethical issues such as abortion.

**Abraham**

Founded Judaism.

God called him to leave his home and father. God and Abraham entered into a covenant that promised many descendants, a promised land and a blessed nation.

**'I will make of you a great nation.'** Genesis 12:1  
 Abraham sealed the covenant by circumcising himself and all the males in his family.

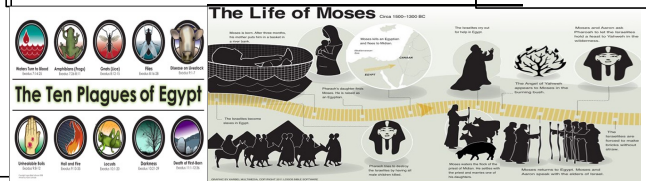
**The covenant** is still part of Jewish life today.

Jewish boys at 8 days old are still circumcised. **The promised land.** The land of Israel remains central to Judaism. There are Shabbat and festival prayers about a return to Israel and many Jews laws can only be implemented if there. Living outside of Israel is still seen as exile by some Jews.



The birth of Isaac and Sarah in their old age shows Jews that God kept his promise and intervened when needed.

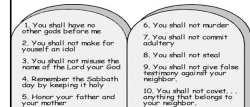
Abraham shows obedience to God when asked to sacrifice his son Isaac. He is stopped before doing this by an Angel.



Moses crossed the Red sea with the freed Hebrew slaves and took them to Mount Sinai. Here God made a covenant with the Jewish people. The Jewish people are seen as the chosen people of God. They are given the initial instructions of the 10 commandments. Moses is given the Oral Torah which is later written in the Talmud. The Torah is the most important part of the Tenakh as it contains the Law of the covenant. The gift of the Torah is celebrated in the festival of Shavuot.

10 commandments are the first of 613 commandments (Mitzvot). The 10 commandments are read three times a year in the synagogue. The Mitzvot are how God set out the best way to live. Jews use freewill to choose between right and wrong. Those who are good and follow the commandments will be rewarded and those who disobey will be punished. Observing the Mitzvot is a way Jews can say thank you to God from rescuing them from slavery and deepens their relationship with God

The Mitzvot makes Judaism a living religion as they should do good deeds towards others. The Talmud is the starting point for where modern day questions e.g. organ donation.



**Year 11 Knowledge Organiser: Everyday Judaism**

**Keywords**

**Synagogue.** House of assembly

**The Kaddish** A prayer of praise which is usually used after a Rabbi's teaching. A longer version is used at a funeral.

**Barkhu** The call to prayer at the start of a synagogue service.

**Avodat Hashem** Worship of God.  
**The Siddur** book of daily prayers.

Prayer and worship in the synagogue is the most important part of Jewish worship. Jews around the world follow similar services. Main acts of worship in a synagogue are: **Daily prayers** services held three times a day. **Shabbat** from dusk Friday and ends at the appearance of three stars on Saturday. **Reform and Liberal Jews** tend to focus more on the Shabbat and festivals rather than the daily prayers.

**Daily prayers.**

Jews can pray anywhere but if a Minyan is present then the Kaddish or prayers linked to reading the Torah can be said.

**Orthodox synagogues.** Prayers are said in Hebrew.

**Reform and Liberal synagogues** have a mixture of Hebrew and English.

Jews often stand to say prayers as a reminder of God's presence. Prayers are usually said silently when praying alone.

The **Siddur** contains the daily prayers which vary throughout the calendar.

**Synagogue**

The synagogue is sometimes call shul and can be identified by the start of David or a menorah on the outside. Synagogues should face Jerusalem so in the UK face East.

In Orthodox synagogues there may be a separate balcony for women. Orthodox often have seating on three sides with the ark on the fourth. Reform can sometimes have the bimah at the front of the hall before the ark. Some modern synagogues are different shapes but in all the bimah and ark are important.



**The Ark**

This is the most important part of the prayer hall and is set in the wall which faces Jerusalem. It is where the Torah scrolls are kept. This is to remember the Holy of Holies in the Temple which contained the Ark of the Covenant and the Ten Commandments. The doors or curtains are only opened when the Torah scrolls are taken out at worship.

**Ner tamid**

This is the eternal light that burns all the time in front or above the ark. Thus fulfils the requirement 'to Kindle a lamp continually' Exodus 27:20-21 The light reflects God's eternal nature.

**The bimah**

Represents the Temple altar. From here, The Rabbi leads the service from the bimah. The Torah scrolls are read from here.

A Yad is used to read from the Torah so it is not touched directly.



Synagogue services unite the community in prayer and study. Jews pray towards Israel.

Private prayer consists of three elements: thanksgiving, prayer of praise and prayers that ask for things. Jews believe God will take action and responds to their prayers perhaps not in the way they expect but prayer is never in vain. A sermon by the Rabbi will usually relate to part of the service or a topical issue which may affect the way Jews should live their lives.

The synagogue is a place of worship and education It also serves as a community Centre. There are often Hebrew classes, youth clubs ,adults education classes and Charity events.

**The Shema**

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

The Shema is also found inside the Tefillin.

The Tefillin are two small leather box containing the scripture.

They are strapped to the left arm and the forehead.

As a constant reminder that God is in their minds and their hearts.

The Amidah is the core part of the Jewish worship service. It means 'standing' and refers to a series of blessings recited whilst standing. It contains three parts praise, request and thanks.

**AMIDAH**

- 1 Blessed are you, Lord, shield of Abraham.
- 2 Blessed are you Lord, reviving the dead.
- 3 Blessed are you Lord, the holy God.
- 4 Blessed are you Lord, gracious giver of understanding.
- 5 Blessed are you Lord, who desires repentance.
- 6 Blessed are you Lord, who abundantly forgives.
- 7 Blessed are you Lord, the redeemer of Israel.
- 8 Blessed are you Lord, who heals the sick of his people Israel.
- 9 Blessed are you Lord, who blesses the years.
- 10 Blessed are you Lord, who gathers the expelled of his people Israel.
- 11 Blessed are you Lord, lover of justice.
- 12 Blessed are you Lord, humbler of the arrogant.
- 13 Blessed are you Lord, trust of the righteous.
- 14 Blessed are you Lord, God of David builder of Jerusalem.
- 15 Blessed are you Lord, hearer of prayer.
- 16 Blessed are you Lord, whom we shall serve in reverence.
- 17 Blessed are you Lord, [for it is] good to give thanks to you.
- 18 Blessed are you Lord, maker of peace.

Jews believe they are instructed to pray three times a day. They should pray the daily prayers in the home if they cannot attend the synagogue.

“Evening, morning, and noon, I supplicate and moan; and He has heard my voice.”  
Psalm 55:18

The Shema is the most important prayer in Judaism. Recited twice a day in the morning and evening services in the synagogue.

The Shema prayer is placed in a Mezuzah which is container found on the right hand door post outside Jewish homes and on every doorpost within the house except the bathroom. They remind Jews of God's presence.



**Tefillin** are only worn on week day mornings. Reform and Liberal Jewish women may wear tefillin.

**Tallit** is a fringed shawl worn by men and boys over bar mitzvah at every morning service. The fringe on the corner reminds the wearer of the ten commandments in the Torah. They also use it to cover the head to help focus when praying.

**Morning Prayer.** The Shema and Amidah are said and readings from the Tenakh help focus the mind on God.  
**Afternoon prayer.** Psalm 145 'Praise' by David followed by the Amidah and ending with the Aleinu.  
**Evening Prayer.** The Shema, Amidah and Aleinu are recited.

- Daily prayer allows regular prayer, sometimes connecting in faith as a family.
- Individual prayer allows personal reflection and solitary time with God.
- Constant prayer keeps God in an individual's heart and mind and allows spontaneous opportunity for thanksgiving.
- Shabbat prayer brings family and friends together in regular celebration.

## Year 11 Knowledge Organiser: Influence of Jewish Teachings.

### Key words

**Olam Ha - Ba:** the afterlife – some Jews also refer it to the Messianic Age.

**Gehinnon:** is a place for punishment and purification of the soul occurs (hell), usually due to not following the Torah & laws.

**Gan Eden :** A pure spiritual heaven that is mentioned in the Tenakh.

**Sheol:** A waiting place where the dead await purification of the soul.

**Shabbat: Jewish holy day.**

### Shabbat

Begins at dusk in Friday and ends at the appearance of three stars on Saturday.

### Shabbat prayer

Prayers are important as part of the Shabbat rituals. On a Friday night, the Shabbat meal is prepared before candles are lit to welcome Shabbat. Prayers are recited before the meal begins. The Kiddush is a prayer of sanctification which:

- celebrates God's creation of the universe
- remembers the release of their ancestors from slavery in Egypt.

After the Kiddush is recited over the wine and other blessings are made, the food is eaten. The meal can take several hours, with stories being told and songs being sung. The connection of family, and sometimes friends, through prayer and thanksgiving is considered to be of great value.

Shabbat services take place on Friday evening, Saturday morning and afternoon.

The main service lasts about 2 hours. The whole family is encouraged to attend.

The home is usually cleaned ready for Shabbat.

Jews abstain from work and cooking is prohibited. As igniting a cooker is seen as work.

Lights can not be switched on and must be on timers.

There are 39 categories of actions classed as work.

### Life after death

Jews DO NOT focus on death but on LIFE.

- Living a good life now is more important than preparing for the world to come.

- The ways of God are not for humans to understand, so why try!

- DOING GOOD IN OUR LIVES IS WHAT MATTERS.

HOWEVER death is not the end.

Jews believe that God created the soul in all humans starting with Adam (Genesis – breath of life)

For many Jews this is what makes us human. **“The Lord God formed man from the dust of the earth. He blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.”** (Genesis)

They believe the soul returns to God when we die.

## Orthodox Jews

Most believe in some form of resurrection as said within their daily prayers and at funerals.

Some say the soul rests under the “wing” of Shekinah (presence of God)

Some Orthodox Jews believe the **body & soul are raised together**. Therefore the body must be buried, **NOT** cremated or used for organ donations.

They believe the Messiah will come to start the Messianic Age and the **righteousness will be resurrected and live in Israel** (Peaceful age)

## Reform Jews

Many reject the beliefs in the resurrection.

The memories of their loved ones is more important and this lives on through their actions and good deeds.

Some Reform Jews believe the soul lives on after death.

Some believe at the start of the Messianic Age the **righteousness will be resurrected and live in Israel** (Peaceful age – without the Messiah)



Some Jews believe in reincarnation & the soul being given a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance to carry out the mitzvot (Middle Ages)

### Brit Milah

All Jewish boys must be circumcised 8 days after their birth.

The circumcision must be performed by either a doctor or a Mohel [M-oil], a person who is religiously qualified to perform the circumcision.

It is the fathers job to make sure his son is circumcised.

It is a lifelong, physical reminder that the person is a member of God's chosen people.

### Bar and Bat Mitzvah

A Bar Mitzvah is a Jewish initiation ceremony for sons.

It takes place when the boy is 13 years old.



From the time of his Bar Mitzvah the son has to take responsibilities for his own actions to fulfil the commandments.

The Bar Mitzvah ceremony takes place on the Sabbath after his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The year before the boys 13<sup>th</sup> birthday he prepares by learning the Torah, Hebrew and understanding his religious duties.

### Reform Jews.

Hold a Bat Mitzvah is for girls at the age of 12.

The girl will read from the Torah, give a short speech and may lead a part of the prayer service.

This will usually be followed by a meal or party, just as a Jewish family would for a Bar Mitzvah.

### Orthodox Jews.

Celebrate Bat Chayil.

This is still celebrating a 12 year old girls coming of age. They celebrate with a family meal and have small religious gifts.

The girl may make a speech or give a brief Torah lesson at the end of a synagogue service.

The girls future role in keeping a Jewish home is part of her Bat Chayil preparation.

### The Funeral

- Jews usually **bury** the dead. Some Reform may cremate.
- Body is never left alone as a sign of respect.
- Body is washed and wrapped in linen.
- Men are wrapped in their tallit – the tassels are cut off as they are no longer needed.
- Plain coffins to show equality between poor & rich.
- Funeral is at the cemetery, not synagogue (living).
- Psalms, prayers and a eulogy by the Rabbi.
- Mourners shovel dirt onto the coffin.
- Everyone then washes their hands with 3 cups of water to symbolise leaving death behind.

### Shiva - Period of intense mourning

- Mourners
- Stay at home:
- Do not wear leather shoes, shave or cut hair, wear cosmetics or work;
- Don't try to bring comfort or pleasure;
- Wear clothes that were worn at the funeral;
- Pray 3 times a day with family & friends.
- After Sheloshim (30 days) normal life will resume.

### Marriage.

The Torah has very little on marriage.

It is the Talmud that gives the guidance on how to find a partner. The Kiddushin is the engagement period.

The Nisin is the full marriage.

The couple stand under a canopy and receive a blessing/message from the Rabbi.

In Orthodox a plain metal ring is given to the bride. Plus 2 male Jews sign the Ketubah (marriage contract)

In Reform both partners exchange rings. Plus 2 adults (M&F) can sign the marriage contract.

The 7-blessings are given by the Rabbi.

The groom stamps on a glass (destruction of the temple) before the couple spend some time together alone.

This is followed by a party with family & friends. Orthodox weddings will still have separate rooms for men and women at the party. Jewish Marriage

### Festivals

Brings the community together. Remember the history e.g. Passover & Holocaust. Tradition & link to their ancestors. Show respect

**Pesach means Passover**, this is one of the most important religious festivals in the Jewish calendar. Jews celebrate the Feast of Passover to remember the freedom of the Children of Israel who were led out of Egypt by Moses. Pesach last for 7 days. Jews gather with their families to have special meals. In the synagogue there are special readings for each day of the festival.

**Rosh Hashanah** Start of the Jewish Year, which remembers the story of creation and the start of the Torah. Start of the DAYS OF AWE – when Jews repent. (Orthodox Jews – 2 days and Reform – 1 day). On this day God writes down the deeds of the person, judges them and makes a decision about the year to come! Many Jews, reflect, make peace and ask forgiveness.

### Sukkot

4 days after Yom Kippur and is the end of summer and start of autumn.

It reminds Jews of living in the wilderness before finding the Holy Lands.

Many Jews show acts of kindness and hospitality towards each other during this time.

**Shavuot** the giving of the laws to Moses on Mount Sinai and the wheat festival. Some customs in decorating the synagogue in green and eating dairy.



### Yom Kippur is known as the Day of Atonement

is 10 days after Rosh Hashanah. Jews will ask God for forgiveness for the sins they repented 10 days earlier. Many Jews fast for 25 hours as it states in Leviticus.

It helps them build self-control, focus on God and prayer.