

Key Vocabulary:

Covenant – The contract between God and the Jewish people.

Torah – The Jewish Holy book in which rules for leading a god Jewish life are found.

Prophet – Person chosen by God to deliver important messages and teachings.

Mitzvot – Laws written in the Torah which Jewish people should live their life by in order to be faithful to God.

Orthodox – Jews who follow the religious rules of Jewish life exactly as they are written in the Torah

Reform – Jews who follow the religious rules but adapt them to fit modern life.

Secular – People who are part of the Jewish culture and live a basic Jewish life but do not believe in God.

Kosher – Jewish food laws outlining what can and can not be eaten.

Shabbat – Jewish day of rest which all Jews must observe.

Other Important Festivals:

Hanukkah – Celebrates the recapture of the Temple in Jerusalem. Occurs in mid – late December.

Rosh Hashanah – The Jewish New Year. Usually occurs in early autumn in Britain and Europe.

Yom Kippur – Seen as the holiest day in the Jewish year. Happens on the 10th day of the 7th month of the year and marks the end of the New Year period.



Key Jewish Figures:

Abraham – The founder of the religion. Established the Covenant and special relationship between God and the Jews

Moses – Jewish leader who save the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt by sending 10 plagues to Egypt.

Important events in Jewish Life:

Brit Millah – ceremony for male circumcision

Bar Mitzvah – Male coming of age ceremony aged 13. Involves reading a passage from the Torah

Bat Mitzvah – Female coming of age ceremony aged 12.

Weddings – Usually arranged using a matchmaker. At the end of the marriage ceremony a glass is smashed to remember the destruction of the Temple..

