



Judaism:

How special is the relationship Jews have with G_d?

Topic Overview

- Jews believe there is one G_d who every Jew can have a special relationship with.
- Jews believe that they are the 'chosen people' of G_d. This means that G_d selected them to live their lives according to his will and to set an example to others.
- Jewish history begins with the Covenant between G_d and Abraham around 1812 BC.
- G_d made a special promise that He would look after Abraham and all his descendants. He showed this by giving him and his wife a son, even though he was 99!
- Jewish people believe that G_d has always kept His promise to look after them, for example when G_d helped the Jews escape from slavery in Egypt.
- After leaving Egypt, the Jews were in need of rules and order to help them live life in the way G_d wanted.
- Moses was given the Ten Commandments and G_d asked the Jewish people to live by these as their promise to him.
- These rules still impact on Jewish life today.
- Many Jews have a mezuzah on the doorpost in their home. Inside the mezuzah is a scroll with Hebrew writing called the Shema. The Shema is a declaration of faith in one G_d. It says that Jewish people should love G_d and keep His rules.
- The mezuzah and Shema are a daily reminder of the covenant and the fact that the rules need to be followed.

Links with other religions

- **Jesus** (Christianity). Jesus was Jewish.
- **The 10 Commandments** (Christianity). Both Jews and Christians believe God gave Moses 10 rules that they should follow.
- **Passover** (Judaism). During Passover, Jews remember how God helped them escape from slavery in Egypt. This is one example of how God looked after Jews.
- **The Five Pillars of Islam** (Islam). Muslims believe they must carry out five duties in order to live a good and responsible life and be closer to God.
- **The Noble Eight-Fold Path** (Buddhism). This is the way the Buddha taught that Buddhists should live their lives.
- **The 5 Precepts** (Buddhism). These are 5 rules Buddhists should follow in their lives. They are suggested ways of living rather than commandments given by a god.
- **Khalsa** (Sikhism). Khalsa Sikhs must follow the Rahit Maryada, which is the Sikh code of conduct.
- **Purusharthas** (Hinduism). Hindus recognise four purposes (or goals) of human life (purusharthas) which help them to lead good lives.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Agreement	A decision between two or more groups or people.
Promise	A statement by a person that they will or will not do something.
Trust	Firm belief in someone or something.
Covenant	A special promise.
Mezuzah	A small case placed on Jewish doorposts containing the Shema.
Shema	An important prayer for Jews.
Descendants	A person who is related to you and who lives after you, such as your child or grandchild.

