

Year 9 Topic 1: Beliefs and Teachings

Key Words:

Covenant: A promise between God and man

Talmud and Tenakh: Jewish scripture

Shema: Jewish prayer

Synagogue: Jewish place of Worship

Torah
Jewish Holy Scripture

Rabbi: Jewish religious leader

Yahweh: Jewish word for God

The Torah






What is it?

- ❖ It is made up of the first 5 books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
- ❖ These books contain the early history of the Jews, from the creation of the world to the death of Moses.

Why is it important?

- ❖ Describes creation of the universe.
- ❖ Explains how God chose the Jews as his special people.
- ❖ Contains the Ten Commandments and other important laws.
- ❖ Describes Jewish history and events.

Features of a Synagogue

	Bimah: This is the focus point. The Torah is placed on here
	Menorah: This a special candle holder
	Yad: This is a pointer used to read the Torah
	Ner Tamid: This a permeant light above the Ark to show God's presence
	Ark: This is a special place where the Torah scrolls are kept.



SOA

'Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.' Shema

What is the Synagogue?

- ❖ It is the Jewish place of worship.
- ❖ There are differences between Orthodox and Reform Synagogues.
- ❖ It is often a centre for education and other activities such as charity events and youth clubs



Why is Abraham important?

- ❖ **Abraham was the founder of the Jewish faith and every Jew is a descendent of him.**
- ❖ **God made a covenant with Abraham promising him a great nation and the land of Canaan in return for all males to be circumcised and all Jews to worship God alone**

Abraham and Isaac



What is the Story about?

- ❖ Abraham and his wife were unable to have children.
- ❖ God promised them a son and gave them one when Abraham was an old man.
- ❖ To test his faith, God asked Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice.
- ❖ Just as he was about to this, God intervened and rewarded Abraham

What is the Sabbath?

- ❖ Sabbath is the Jewish holy day were the celebrate the creation of the world. It's a time were families gather, meals are eaten, prayers are said and there are strict rule to rest and worship.
- ❖ It starts on Friday eve and ends on Saturday evening.
- ❖ What happens on Sabbath?
- ❖ On Friday eve, where the food is already prepared, the table set, the house clean and two loaves of bread called Challah are placed on the table covered with a special cloth called a Challah Decke.
- ❖ Just before Shabbat begins, the mother of the house lights the candles and, covering her eyes, says a blessing
- ❖ The Father of the house fills the Kiddush cup with wine. He lifts the cup and says an ancient prayer of blessing called the Kiddush.
- ❖ On Saturday, the family attend the Synagogue where he Torah is read
- ❖ When Shabbat is over. There is a ceremony called Havdalah.

Shema

The Shema is a special Prayer, it describe what Jewish people believe about God, It says that there is only one God

Mezuzah



The Mezuzah which is a wooden box with the words of the Shema
It is nailed to the right side of each doorpost.

SOA

'A multiple of people is a king's glory'
Proverbs 14:28

Moses



Who was Moses?

- ❖ He was brought up believing he was the son of the Pharaoh.
- ❖ He helped the Hebrews escape because God sent plagues and by separating the sea.
- ❖ God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai and gave him the 10 commandments Moses (and every Jew ever to be born) entered a Covenant with God to obey the rules and worship God

Why is was this important?

- ❖ God chose him, spoke to him and helped him perform miracles.
- ❖ God trusted him enough to give him the 10 commandments

1.2 The Biblical understanding of God as a Trinity



The Baptism of Jesus – Matthew’s gospel – source of wisdom and authority

- This story is in the Bible and this means it must be true as the Bible is the word of God.
- Father – present in the voice, tells the reader that Jesus is the SON – **God is powerful**
- Son – IS Jesus, the one being Baptised, the Son who will set an example of how people should live, will be a sacrifice – **God is love**
- Holy Spirit – a dove, gives the Son strength to do Gods work, the dove is a symbol of purity and peace, God at work in the world – **God is present.**
- In the Gospels the father, son and Holy Spirit work together – they proclaim Gods word and do Gods work

Divergent opinions – can the Jesus and God be one and the same?

In the early Church people started to believe different things;

Some said Jesus is an ordinary man, not the Son of God or the Messiah.

Others believed the Father existed before the son, the son is a god but is not God. (Arius).

Historical development of belief in the Trinity

- *TO CLEAR THINGS UP AND CLARIFY BELIEFS THERE WERE TWO COUNCILS*
- *Church councils (meetings where Roman Catholic Bishops make important decisions that impact on faith). Catholics believe the Bishops are guided by the Holy Spirit.*
- **Council of Nicea 325** – declared the father and Son are one and the same
- **Council of Constantinople 381** – the Holy Spirit is part of God.
- These two councils resulted in the **Nicene Creed** being formed
- **‘God from God, light from light, true God from true God..... consubstantial with the father’ – ONE AND THE SAME**
- Today **most Christians** believe in the Trinity – RC, Orthodox and most Protestants.
- Groups like **Jehovah’s witnesses** believe Jesus said: “The Father is greater than I am.” (John 14:28) So we do not worship Jesus, as we do not believe that he is the Almighty God.

Year 9 Topic 2: Festivals and Rites of Passage

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Passover

- ❖ Reminds them of the Angel of Death passing over during their time of slavery in Egypt. (Ten plagues)
- ❖ Reminds them of their covenant with God
- ❖ Eat unleavened bread – doesn't rise – shows the hurry of the Jews leaving slavery.
- ❖ Sedar meal – everything is symbolic e.g. bitter herbs – to symbolise the bitterness of slavery.
- ❖ Sedar wine is drunk to remember God's four promises to Moses.



Birth and Brit Milah

- ❖ A baby girl is given her names in the synagogue after her father has performed a special reading from the Torah. Boys are named after eight days, during the circumcision.
- ❖ **BRIT MILAH:** symbolises the covenant made by Abraham.
- ❖ The baby boy has his foreskin removed at eight days old by a specifically trained Mohel.
- ❖ One of the most observed mitzvot, ancient ritual.
- ❖ Shows God their loyalty and faith.

'Abraham circumcised his son Isaac at the age of eight days as God had commanded him.'
Genesis 21:4

Rosh Hashanah

- ❖ Jewish New Year
- ❖ On this day God writes down his judgement on each person
- ❖ They reflect on their past year and making peace with others.
- ❖ Eat apples dipped in honey to symbolise a sweet new year.
- ❖ Shofar (ram's horn) is blown to remind Jews that God will judge them.
- ❖ Tashlikh: Jews empty their pockets to symbolise getting rid of sin.



Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- ❖ Boys have a Bar Mitzvah at 13, girls a Bat Mitzvah at 12
- ❖ They are then responsible for their own actions and religious path.
- ❖ Boys can now lead a synagogue service, included in a minyan or read from the Torah. REFORM = girls also can do this.
- ❖ Boys must study and prepare a passage from the Torah to read during the ceremony. This means they must learn Hebrew. Girls must spend more time learning how to prepare for Shabbat, as well as learning a prayer to recite.
- ❖ After the service a special meal is eaten and shared, with big celebrations and parties for families and friends.

Yom Kippur



- ❖ Day of Atonement
- ❖ Holiest day of the year, 10 days after Rosh Hashanah
- ❖ God makes his final judgement on whether they have been good/bad.
- ❖ Confessing wrongdoing is very important.
- ❖ Fast (don't eat or drink) for 25 hours.
- ❖ Wear white to show purity.
- ❖ Avoid make-up/perfume and bathing.
- ❖ Pray a lot of the day in the synagogue.



Marriage

- ❖ During the ceremony the couple stand underneath a canopy called a Chuppah, representing a new home.
- ❖ The Rabbi talks and offers advice.
- ❖ Seven blessings are said and then the plain metal rung is placed on the bride's finger.
- ❖ Orthodox: must be witnessed by two men. Reform: Men or women.
- ❖ After the contract is signed the groom stamps on a glass as a reminder of the destruction of the temple.
- ❖ The couple then have some time together before the meal and party.

Why are festivals important?

- ❖ Helps bring the community together
- ❖ Strengthens their faith,
- ❖ Brings them closer to God
- ❖ Time to remember key parts of history
- ❖ Orthodox = continuing tradition is vital

'Live in booths for seven days.'

'Do not eat bread with yeast in'

'See I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil...choose life'

Funerals and Mourning

- ❖ Traditionally the bodies are buried. Reform may use cremation.
- ❖ Use a simple wooden coffin/white cloth.
- ❖ Should take place within 24 hours of death and the body should never be left alone.
- ❖ Family and friends pay respects, to the body covered in a shroud and tallit for the men.
- ❖ Can take place in a synagogue, at home or the cemetery.
- ❖ Services include readings, singing psalms and a eulogy.
- ❖ Everyone washes their hands in a ritual outside, symbolising leaving death behind.
- ❖ After the funeral there is a meal of consolation.
- ❖ Stones are left instead of flowers, because stones are permanent.
- ❖ The seven days after are an intense mourning period, where they stay at home, reject luxuries and fun activities and may wear a torn black ribbon or cut tie to show sorrow.



Catholic Christianity Unit 2 Practices

2.1 The sacramental nature of reality



- Ensure you know the **MEANING** and **EFFECT** of each sacrament – you should be able to add to what is listed below!!
- Baptism – initiation, part of the Gods family, journey of faith.
- Communion – look at in 2.2 – the most important sacrament
- Reconciliation- heal a broken relationship with God, start again, closer to God
- Confirmation – initiation, renew promises at Baptism, confirm our faith – active role in the Church
- Anointing of the sick – healing, prayer and anoint those who are vulnerable, make them stronger, feel comforted by God and others
- Marriage – vocation – be committed to one other for life, declare love before God
- Holy Orders – vocation, dedicate your life to God and his people, provide the sacraments – eucharist/reconciliation

Source of wisdom and authority – Catechism (Catholic teachings) – 1210-1211

Christ instituted the sacraments - through the sacraments Christ is with us at key times in our lives, initiation, healing, vocation, there is an overlap with our natural and spiritual lives.



Importance of the sacraments for Roman Catholics

Receive Gods grace and blessing/ Mark the journey of faith/ Strengthen our faith/ Bring us closer to God – outward sign of invisible grace = faith

Divergent Christian practice

Orthodox Christians and Anglicans believe and practice the same as Catholics (seven sacraments).

Most Protestants only accept two sacraments-Baptism and Holy Communion as needed for salvation because they believe these are the only two sanctioned by Jesus in the Bible.

Some Protestants Baptists and Pentecostals believe only adults should be baptised when they agree to what is happening.

Salvation army and Quakers do not have any at all, they believe sacraments get in the way with our relationship with God, they believe the things we say and do are a distraction.