

FOUNDERS / LEADERS



According to the Torah, God first revealed himself to a Hebrew man named Abraham, who became known as the **founder of Judaism**.

TEXTS



For most Christians the whole of the **Bible** is their holy book, but for Jews the **Torah** is the holy book.

The five books of the Torah and the first five books of the Christian Old Testament are the same, so Jews and Christians share many stories. The New Testament of the Christian Bible is not part of Jewish tradition.

BELIEFS



Christians believe Jesus is God in the flesh.

Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah, sent by God to save humanity (Jewish people do not think Jesus is the Messiah.)

Christians believe that his birth, life, death and resurrection were part of a longer plan by God to restore the relationship between humans and God.

Christians see Jesus as their Saviour.

INDIVIDUAL DAILY LIFE



Many Christians attended church services at Christmas time.

Many Jews treat the name of God with the greatest of respect – no one word or name can sum up everything that God is, so many Jews don't try to limit God in this way, often referring to God as simply 'Hashem', meaning 'The Name' (except when they are praying).

Many Jewish people follow rules—found in the 3rd book of the Torah (Leviticus) about what food they can eat.

When passing through a doorway where a **mezuzah** has been affixed, many Jewish people glance at it and touch it. Some people then kiss their fingertips. This serves as a reminder throughout the day that God is always with them, inside or outside their homes.

PLACES OF WORSHIP



A **church** is a Christian place of worship usually run by clergymen or priest.

A **cathedral** is a much larger place of worship than a **church** and is usually run by a bishop.

The **synagogue** is a building where Jews go to worship God. The word synagogue means 'meeting place' in Greek.

Key vocabulary and meanings

Gospels - The New Testament is a collection of books that were written after Jesus died and rose from the dead. It contains the four **gospels** - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. It is in the gospels that Christians learn about the example that Jesus set and the teachings that he gave to his disciples and early followers.

Incarnation - the **Christian** belief that God took human form by becoming Jesus. **Incarnation** literally means 'to take on flesh'.

Prophecies - The Old and New Testaments contain examples of prophecies - predictions of what will happen in the future.

***Messiah** - a Hebrew word and means 'anointed one'. This is a title given to the person believed to be the saviour, who has been chosen to bring salvation to humankind. The term 'anointed one' is used in both **Christianity** and Judaism.

***Kosher** is the name Jews give to the laws about the kind of food that they may eat.

Teachers of the Jewish faith are called **rabbis**.

The **Sabbath** (from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday) is the Jewish holy day.

Religious Jews can be **Orthodox** (people who follow the laws of the Torah very strictly) and **Progressive** (people who have adapted the Torah teachings to modern life).

Mezuzah - parchment scroll affixed to the doorposts of a Jewish home containing portions of the Shema (the most important prayer in Judaism).