

***Destruction of the Temple*** Ancient Jews had a Temple in Jerusalem that was believed to be the figurative "footstool" of God's presence (Shekhinah) in the physical world. The temple was originally built by King Solomon. It was destroyed by the Babylonians, rebuilt, and then destroyed again by the Romans in 70 CE. The destruction of the temple marks the beginning of the rabbinic period in Judaism. The famous Western Wall in Jerusalem is part of what's left of the Temple.

***Exile*** Term used to refer to the Jewish presence outside of the Land of Israel which came about through the Babylonian and Roman conquests of the land.

***Hasidic*** Associated with Hasidism (Chasidism), a branch of Orthodox Judaism that maintains a lifestyle separate from the non-Jewish world. The word "Chasid" means "pious." Hasidism began in the 1700s and focuses on personal and mystical experiences as ways of understanding God. Hasidic Jews tend to live separately and have distinct customs of dress.

***Holocaust Remembrance Day*** Known in Hebrew as Yom-Ha-Shoah, this day occurs in April or May between Passover and Shavuot.

***Kabbalah*** The Jewish mystical tradition. It has traditionally not been taught to anyone under the age of 40, when they've completed their education in Torah and Talmud. It deals with life's big cosmological questions that define many other religions (though not Judaism), like "What is the nature of God and the universe? What happens to the soul after death?" etc.

***Kaddish*** A prayer praising God, commonly associated with mourning practices.

***Maimonides*** Famous Jewish philosopher and rabbinic scholar, born in Spain, (1135–1204 CE). His writings have been very influential.

***Messiah*** Anglicization of the Hebrew word, "moshiach" (anointed). A man who will be chosen by God to put an end to all evil in the world, rebuild the Temple, bring the exiles back to Israel and usher in the world to come. Though the Jewish and Christian concepts of the Messiah both originate from the same religious texts (The Hebrew Bible/The Christian Old Testament), the two religions have very different concepts about what the Messiah is.

***Passover (Pesach)*** The eight-day festival commemorating the freeing of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. (It happens in March or April.)

***phylacteries*** Leather pouches containing scrolls with passages of scripture, used to fulfill the commandment to bind the commandments to our hands and between our eyes. Jews refer to them as tefillin.

***rabbi*** A religious teacher and person authorized to make decisions on issues of Jewish law. Also performs many of the same functions as a Protestant minister.

***rebbe*** (REHB- bee) Usually translated to mean "Grand Rabbi." The leader of a Hasidic community, often believed to have special, mystical power.

***Rosh Hashanah*** The Jewish New Year, and the start of the Days of Awe, which culminates in Yom Kippur. It is a sacred day of rest and prayer, a time of introspection, to look back at the mistakes of the past year and planning the changes to make in the new year.

**Sabbath (Shabbat)** Shabbat, the day of rest and spiritual enrichment, is the most important ritual observance in Judaism. It begins at sunset on Friday evening and lasts until sunset on Saturday evening.

**Shavuot** A holiday celebrating harvest, pilgrimage, and most importantly the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. It happens in the spring (May or June).

**Shekhinah** The Hebrew feminine word meaning the dwelling or settling presence of God.

**Shoah** the Hebrew word for the Holocaust

**synagogue** A Jewish house of worship. The equivalent of a church, mosque or temple.

**Talmud** The collection of writings and teachings of the early rabbis in the 5th and 6th centuries CE interpreting the Torah. It is the most important text after the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh).

**Tanakh** The written Torah (or Hebrew Bible), including the books of laws, prophets, and writings; Non-Jews call this the Old Testament.

**Torah** The Torah refers to the first five books of the Bible (The Tanakh). It includes Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

**Yom Kippur** The Day of Atonement. A day set aside for fasting, depriving oneself of pleasures, and repenting from the sins of the previous year. This is the day in which it is believed that each individual stands before God to be judged. It falls ten days after Rosh Hashanah (in September or October).

**Zionism** A political movement to create and maintain a Jewish state. The word is derived from Zion, another name for Jerusalem.

**Zohar** The primary written work in the mystical tradition of Kabbalah.