

Theology and Beliefs

Judaism

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Beliefs

13 Principles

- Principle 1.
- To know the existence of the Creator-God is the creator of all. We know Him through prayer, and the Torah.

Principle 2

- The unity of God-
- God is one [the *Shema*] and cannot be a trinity

Principle 3

- The denial of physicality in connection with God -
- God is spirit, not flesh and blood

Principle 4

- God's Antiquity-
- God has always existed, and will always exist

Principle 5

- That God is worthy that we serve Him,
- to glorify Him,
- to make known His greatness, and to do His commands -
- God is the highest being and commands respect and obedience

Principle 6

- Prophecy - through many times and various ways God sends prophets to warn and judge Israel.
- Some are recorded in the Scriptures.

Principle 7

- The prophetic capacity of Moses the Jews' Teacher.
- Moses recorded the 10 commandments.
- He represents the Law, and is a prominent figure in the Torah.

Principle 8

- That the Torah is from heaven [God] –
- The Torah was given by Moses and it is all from the mouth of God.
- It was received by him entirely from God.
- Moses did not even write it down

Principle 9

- The completeness of the Torah-
- there is nothing missing in the Law that one needs to live righteously.

Principle 10

- That God knows man's actions-
- God is everywhere, and all knowing.
- We cannot hide [like Adam and Eve], even intentions are made known.

Principle 11

- That God gives reward s/he who does the commandments of the Torah
- and punishes those that transgress it-
- since God gave the rules, one must follow them.
- There are benefits and punishments accordingly.

Principle 12

- The era of the Messiah -
- a Messiah [anointed one] has been prophesied who will redeem Israel,
- and lead her to victory.

Principle 13

- Resurrection of the dead-
- at the end of time, the faithful and unfaithful will rise and be judged.
- Jews do not cremate, because of a belief in the need for bodily integrity.
- Hence the *Shoah* [Holocaust] was egregious on many levels.

Discussion Questions

Which of these principles appear in other religions? Which are unique to Judaism? How do you explain similar principles across religions and cultures?

Theology and beliefs

Christianity

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Beliefs

The Apostles Creed

- Made in 313 AD under the ruling of Constantine.
- It was created to establish what Christians are willing to die for, since so many were getting killed for their beliefs
- It is the core essentials that all Christians believe in.

[God]

- I believe in God
- the Father Almighty,
- Maker of heaven and earth.

[Jesus]

- And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
- Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
- He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

[Holy Spirit and Church]

- I believe in the Holy Ghost;
- The holy catholic Church;
- The communion of saints;
- The forgiveness of sins;
- The resurrection of the body;
- And the life everlasting. AMEN.

The Nicene Creed

- In 370 AD, after heresies, doctrines were elaborated on.
- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, of all that is, seen and unseen.
- We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, *eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.*

Nicene [cont.]

- *Through him all things were made.*
- *For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.*
- *For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.*
- *On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

Nicene [cont.]

- He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, *the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.*

Nicene [cont.]

- We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
- *We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.*
- We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Questions

Which of these beliefs do you find in other religions? Which are unique to Christianity?
What is not included in these creeds that many people think you must believe to be a Christian?

Theology Bibliography

- **Jewish Theology**

- Adapted from “Comparative Religion-Abrahamic Faiths”, RL 200.
- Taught at Marian Court College, Spring 2012.

- **Christian Theology**

- Adapted from “Comparative Religion-Abrahamic Faiths”, RL 200.
- Taught at Marian Court College, Spring 2012.