

About

BecomingJewish.Org

This site offers information about Conversion to Judaism, the Basics of Judaism, Jewish Texts, Jewish Law, Religious Life, Jewish Life, Jewish History, Israel, Righteous Gentiles, and References (including Recommended Readings and Additional Links). My goal is to make available a wide variety of plain, basic information about Judaism, written from a traditional perspective.



Beit HaMikdash—Holy Temple in Jerusalem



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Jewish Information
& Education

Who is God?

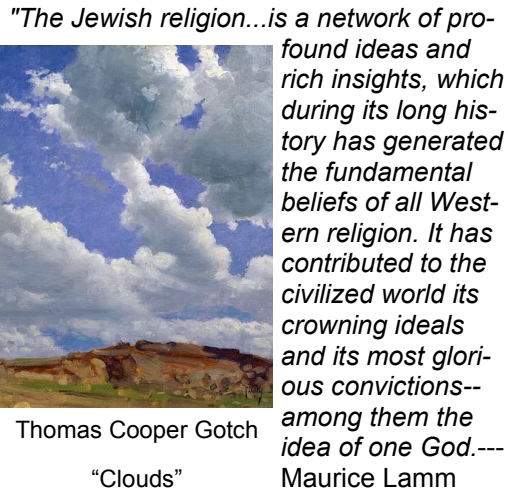


Creation of Light on the
first day

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Who is God?



G-d has many names such as El, El Shaddai, Adonai, Elohim, Almighty, L-rd, Hashem, King of the Universe. No matter what name we use, G-d is One and Indivisible. G-d has no human form and the use of terms such as "the hand of G-d" is a metaphor since the human mind cannot comprehend G-d on such a profound metaphysical level. There have been different views of G-d throughout the ages by various Jews:

The Tanach view has nine basic beliefs regarding G-d: monotheism (only One G-d); G-d has a name; nobody knows what G-d look like; G-d acts in this world; G-d has made a special relationship with Klal Yisrael, Klal Yisrael has a special Covenant with G-d; G-d requires ethical behavior of humans; G-d is a personal G-d; and,

the suffering of the righteous is not understandable.

The Rabbinic view of G-d is similar to the Biblical view and includes: G-d's existence; monotheism; angels act as G-d's messengers; G-d judges this world; G-d and Klal Yisrael have a special bond; G-d is a personal G-d; the suffering of the righteous cannot be explained; and, there is an afterlife and a physical resurrection.

Maimonides' view of G-d includes: G-d exists and has no physical body; the existence of G-d can be proven; the human mind cannot comprehend the totality of G-d so man uses euphemisms to describe G-d (i.e. the hand of G-d); G-d created the world out of nothingness; angels are the messenger of G-d; evil results from human actions and an imperfect world; man has free will; and, man's goal in life is spiritual and intellectual perfection.

The Kabbalah's view of G-d includes: G-d exists but is unknowable; the ten sefirot is how G-d manifests Himself in this world; the human body is a microcosm of the universe; G-d is Self-limiting; the world is imperfect; and, man is partners with G-d to help repair the world.



Spiral Galaxies

Nature of God:

1. God exists
2. God is One and Indivisible
3. God is incorporeal
4. God is neither male nor female
5. God is omnipresent
6. God is omnipotent
7. God is omniscient
8. God is eternal
9. God is both just and merciful
10. God is holy and perfect
11. God is our father and our king

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