

# Judaism

Judaism is the religion of the Jews, the descendents of the ancient Hebrews, so-called 'chosen people'. Its principles revealed from the prophet Moses on the mount Sinai, taken together which are called "The old Testament of the Bible". This religion stands on the three main pillars : (1) Jehovah, the God, (ii) Covenant, (iii) The Torah (The Law).

This is a monotheistic religion believing in observing and practising the contract (the covenant) made with God through following commandments and laws given by Him. 'The old Testament of the Bible' is revered as sacred text of Judaism.

### Basic features of Judaism as a religion

- The main theory of Judaism is God, being merciful has given all things regarding religion to his 'chosen people'; the Jews. In which path the mankind should go for this God reveals the clues through his chosen man sent by Him to the sect of Jews only.
- It is absolutely a monotheistic religion, having faith on one and only God who has an extraordinary personality of consciousness and will can listen to and answers to the devoted and pious people's prayer.
- At same time God has the metaphysical attributes of omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence etc. and human qualities like mercy, kindness, love, justice, holiness, truthfulness etc.

- God is whole-heartedly moralist and that is why, his chosen people should follow his path with observing the moral qualities as mercy, love, justice, holiness etc. in their day-to-day lives through adopting the Torah and commandments given to them by God Himself which can easily be pursued by them in form of service, prayer etc. to God and mankind.

- Judaism believes in incarnation of many prophets of whom Moses is revered as the greatest and most worshipped Messiah of God.

- Besides prophets the existence of angels and spirits of both good and bad is taken for religious belief. Satan is the chief of evil spirits and God is of good spirits. Satan is the main agent behind all-spread evilness in the world but he is not out of the reach of God.

- Although the world is created by God and is dependent upon Him, it is real in true sense and is treated as proper place of discharging duties for people of righteousness. This provides opportunity for them who are interested in goodness to lead the life of morality and fulfil the purpose of God.

- The soul is immortal and it exists even after the death of human being, but the idea of life after the death does not seem to be very clear in this religion, its chief ingredients may be taken as the resurrection of the dead, and the assignment of heaven or hell to them according to his worldly deeds.

- In spite of its emphasis on the primary value of the moral conduct of man, Judaism permits also ceremonies, religious festivals, customary duties, ritualistic ways of prayer and worship etc.