

Culture – Summary

The Bible speaks about God having a Chosen People. Today that sentiment is very much alive amongst the Jewish people. It is a bond that binds all Jewish people together. There may be differences of expression, different rabbis may be followed, traditions and customs may vary but, in essence, being Jewish is inextricably intertwined with being God's Chosen People.

Jewish people may hold to different worldviews, yet culture and identity are important to most. Family, food, community, religion and ethics are the glue that hold Jewish communities together. Sometimes the Bible may be important but equally the Bible may not be central in a Jewish person's life. Oftentimes it could be the Siddur, the Jewish Prayer book that is more well known.

The key thing is to understand is that there is not one fixed form of Jewishness; everyone is unique. We can discover this by showing genuine interest and asking friendly questions to our Jewish friend. Learning about culture is important and it is an essential way to pave the way for Gospel conversations.

Here is a link to a series of documentaries giving great insight into Jewish culture:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uvkz6UEmi4Y&t=476s>

Strictly Kosher

Resources



CMJ Resources

Visit the CMJ online shop www.cmj.org.uk. There are a range of books and other resources which will give some insights into Jewish culture and history.



Written Resources

Biale, David (Ed). *Hasidism – A New History*, Princeton University Press, Oxford, 2018.

Donin, Hayim Halevy. *To Pray As a Jew: A Guide to the Prayer Book and Synagogue Service*, Basic Books, New York, 2001.

Hirsch, Ammiel and Reinman, Yaakov. *One People Two Worlds: An Orthodox Rabbi and a Reform Rabbi Explore the Issues That Divide Them*, Schocken Books, New York, 2002.

Jacobson, Howard. *Roots Schmoots – Journeys among Jews*, Penguin Books, Woodstock, 1993.

Kjaer-Hansen, Kai (Ed). *Jewish Identity & Faith in Jesus*, Caspari Center Publishing, Jerusalem, 1996.

Electronic Resources

A Collection of Modern Jewish Testimonies: I Found Shalom: <https://ifoundshalom.com/>

A daily short email about the weekly Talmud passage emailed to you:

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/daf-yomi/>

Who are Ashkenazic Jews; Who are Sephardic Jews:

https://www.jewfaq.org/ashkenazic_and_sephardic

Holocaust Museum: ushmm.org/research/collections/photo

Jewish History: jewishhistory.org

Jewish History Timeline: jewishhistory.org.il/history

Jewish Museum London: jewishmuseum.org.uk

Song: Ad Mosai מתי טז <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEdqC52V54>

The largest free library of Jewish texts available to read online in Hebrew and English including Torah, Tanakh, Talmud, Mishnah, Midrash, and commentaries:

<https://www.sefaria.org/texts>

Who is the Messiah, My Jewish Learning:

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/who-is-the-messiah/>

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