

# Candidate 10 evidence

Essay 13

Judaism

The first covenant talked about in the Torah is God's oral covenant with Abraham. This is largely regarded to be the foundation of Judaism as during this covenant Abraham changed his name from Abram to Abraham which means father of multitudes. Within this covenant God promises three things to Abraham - land, people and people set apart. "I will be your God and I shall take you as my own people." Exodus. This is a quote which helps to show that God promised Abraham that Jews would be a people set apart that he would take care of. A covenant is a promise between two people much like our marriage and our modern day times period God promised that Jews would be cared for and taken as a people set apart while, Abraham and therefore Jews, promised to worship God and spread his name. Best may be relevant to Jews as it is the foundation of their religion and so they may regard this covenant as one of the most important beliefs in the Torah. Without Abraham's covenant Jews may not have been a people set apart and so Jews may find the relevance that it is because of the covenant that Jews have their religion and identity. However, it may not be relevant to some Jews as it happened many years ago and nobody seems to have made a covenant with God in a very long time and so they may feel the promise is very old and not relevant as it hasn't been updated. In my opinion, I feel like this belief is relevant to Jews as the first covenant is regarded as the foundation of Judaism and I feel like it is important that Abrahams covenant is what started the religion. Therefore, I think it is very relevant in shaping what Judaism is like today, and the practise and beliefs of Jews today.

The third promise God made with Abraham is that Jews would be a people say apart and Abraham was to circumcise himself to show he was a people set apart. "You shall be circumcised and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you" Genesis. This is a quote that shows the need for circumcision. Circumcision in Judaism is the removing of the foreskin of the penis and is done when a Jewish male is 8 days old. This process is called "Brit Milah" and is usually a celebration and a sign of the Jewish boy has joined the faith. This belief about the covenant therefore may be relevant to Jews as it discusses a process which is still done in modern times and is an important aspect in what makes Jewish males Jewish. However, it may not be relevant to some Jewish females who are not able to get circumcised as they may not find any relevance of Abraham's circumcision to themselves as an individual but a mother who has a son may argue it is relevant and some female Jews may argue it's relevant to the faith as a whole . Some Jews may find this belief relevant as the act in Judaism because of the belief circumcision physically distinguishes Jews from other people that makes the belief relevant to Jewish identity. In my opinion, I believe this belief is relevant to Judaism as an important addition to Judaism has been formed, all Jewish babies are circumcised if they are

male, and therefore I feel all male Jews have been impacted by the belief about circumcision making it incredibly relevant.

The second covenant in Judaism is God's covenant with Moses. Moses was a boy who lived in Egypt at the time the Israelites were enslaved. God spoke to Moses through a burning Bush and told him that he needed to demand the pharaoh let the Israelites go free. The pharaoh refused but after 10 plagues like plague of the first born Moses led the Israelites into the wilderness parting the Red Sea during this, God then spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai and gave him the Torah and also two stone tablets with the first ten Jewish commandments. These tablets had five commandments each the first tablet duties to God and the second duties to people. These are known in Judaism as the "10 sayings." This may be relevant to Jews as a reminder God is always looking out for them and God will aid them in times of suffering e.g. he did cause the 10 plagues. It may also be relevant to Jews as the Torah is the centre of all Jewish beliefs and so its origin story will likely be incredibly relevant in a Jew's life who practises and prays from the Torah. In my opinion, I feel this belief is relevant to Judaism as it is a story of how Moses was given the Jewish holy book and so I feel that this would hold an incredible importance to a Jew and relevance if the Torah teaches them how to live their everyday life.

God gave Moses the Torah and when he gave him this he gave Moses 613 commandments contained within the Torah. Jews refer to these as mitzvah and are rules on how Jews should live their life. 268 are positive (you shall) and 345 are negative (you shall not). Jews are expected to uphold these rules in their everyday life and should follow all as they do not know which ones God deems the most important. This may be relevant to Jews as these rules teach them how to live their everyday lives and they spend a large amount of time trying to follow these strict mitzvah guidelines. However, it may not be relevant to Jews as 613 is a lot to remember. Jews may feel it is impossible to perfectly follow each of the commandments and so may decide the ones they do not understand or don't fully agree with the importance of it and it may not be relevant.

God gave Moses the Torah which held many varying commandments. "Do not murder" Exodus. This is a commandment which shows Jews they should not harm or kill others. This may be relevant to Jews as it fits with their own moral code most likely and it is easy for them to uphold such values as your society upholds the same such laws. Another of these Mitzvot as "he must not eat raisins" found in Numbers. This may not be relevant to Jews as it feels outdated and almost silly and so some Jews may believe that is no real relevance in upholding it. In my opinion I feel some of the commandments given to Moses during the covenant story could be relevant as to some extent to

follow and follow a good moral code but some may not be as they don't seem to have any real influence to moral value.