

Candidate 5 evidence

World Religion Essay 5

Judaism

The synagogue is the Jewish place of worship. Jews meet every Saturday at the Synagogue to attend a service and worship God. A synagogue service is led by the Jewish religious leader called a Rabbi. One feature of a synagogue is the Ark. The ark is on the wall in the Synagogue that is the closest to the holy city Jerusalem and inside is the Torah. The Torah is the Jewish holy book and contains 5 books – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Inside a synagogue, a Torah is dressed in cloth and adorned with metal breastplates. This highlights the importance of the Torah as its purpose in the Synagogue is to be used to recite prayers. Another feature in a synagogue is the Ner Tamid. This is the light that hangs from the ceiling of the synagogue and which is always on. The purpose of the Ner Tamid in a synagogue is to remind Jews of God's omnipresence, which means he is always everywhere looking out for Jews. In Orthodox synagogues, all male Jews must wear a Kippah – this is the skull cap which they place on their head. Another feature of the synagogue is the menorah, which is a candlestick and features 7 spaces for candles. These are lit during Hannukah celebrations. The purpose of the menorah inside the synagogue is to remind Jews about the original temple and the oil lamp that burned for several days. Another feature of the synagogue is that in orthodox synagogues 5 men are called up each service to recite prayers. This is important as it helps these Jews show their devotion to God and show their ability to recite from the Torah. Inside a synagogue, Jews are also expected to wear tefillin, these being male Jews who are orthodox. This is wrapped around the arms and has a box which goes on the head. This contains the Shema – an important Jewish prayer found in Deuteronomy.

One purpose of the synagogue in Jewish lives is that it brings Jews together as a community. Jews congregate together each week for prayer and so they have the ability to talk to each other and show their devotion to God together. Jews recite prayers and worship in the Synagogue and so they are able to better understand the Torah which is God's word and better understand how God wants them to live their lives. Another purpose of the Synagogue is to fulfil their duties on Shabbat. Worship is one of the many rules Jews must follow on Shabbat, the holy day and so going to synagogue for prayer aids in this.