

Candidate 5 evidence

Evaluate the significance of Jewish beliefs about God.

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One Jewish belief about God is that he is omnipotent which means all powerful, this is shown in the Torah from Genesis where it states, 'In the beginning, God created the heaven and earth...' A consequence of this belief is that it offers reassurance and comfort to Jews as it instils a sense of trust and confidence that God can intervene in any situation, offer protection, and bring about justice. This belief about God is not significant for many Jews, particularly considering the Holocaust, a period during which they felt abandoned, as some Jews may acknowledge God's existence but question his ability to demonstrate power and intervene effectively in human actions.

Another Jewish belief about God is that he is omniscient which means all knowing, this is shown in the Tanakh, 'I believe wholeheartedly that God knows all of man's deeds and thoughts, as it says.' An implication of this is they believe that God is aware of all their actions, thoughts, and intentions therefore Jews understand that they are ultimately answerable to God for their behaviour and choices. This is significant as it encourages Jews to approach prayer with trust, knowing that God understands their deepest thoughts and emotions and they cannot hide anything from him.

Jews believe that God is omnipresent meaning he is everywhere, this is shown in the Torah, 'Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.' An implication of this is that Jews believe that God is always present with them, offering support, and comfort which can serve as a source of strength and reassurance. This remains a significant Jewish belief about God as it encourages Jews to live with integrity and honesty by following God's laws, knowing that they are accountable to an all-present God.

Judaism is a monotheistic religion and therefore, Jews believe in the existence of only one God. This belief is expressed in the Shema, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' A consequence of this belief is that Jews have a singular focus for prayer as it promotes a sense of closeness in their connection to God. This is a significant belief as it has allowed for covenants to be made with God and the Jewish people that establishes their connection with each other and affirms the Jewish identity.

A final belief about God is that he is transcendent which means God is viewed as being beyond the physical world. Jews believe that God is infinite, eternal, and not limited by time or space. This implies that God's nature and actions are ultimately beyond human comprehension which Jews must trust in God's wisdom and justice even when they cannot fully understand his ways. This is hugely significant as it keeps Jews grounded in their humanity and reminds them that God is truly great and deserving of far greater respect than fellow humans. Consequently, this also demands that their faith in God remains exceptionally strong as they are unable to fully understand what it means to be God.