



Prior Knowledge

People who follow **Judaism** are called **Jews**.

Jews believe in the one God.

A **prophet** is someone who speaks for God and shares God's word.

What do Jewish people believe about God?

Jewish people believe there's only one God. They do not believe that God has ever been in a human form.

Simchat Torah Festival

Simchat Torah is celebrated by taking all the Torah scrolls out of the ark in synagogue and spending the evening dancing, singing, and rejoicing. The scrolls are carried around the sanctuary in seven circles called **hakafot**. Though only seven circles are required, the dancing and celebrating usually goes on much longer.

New Knowledge

Why are Jerusalem and Israel important places to people of the Jewish faith?

Jerusalem has been the holiest city in **Judaism** and the ancestral and spiritual homeland of the Jewish people since the 10th century BCE. During classical antiquity, Jerusalem was considered the center of the world, where God resided. The city of Jerusalem is given special status in Jewish religious law. Israel claims the whole of Jerusalem as its capital.



How is the festival of Purim celebrated?

Purim is celebrated among Jews by: Exchanging gifts of food and drink, known as **mishloach manot**. Donating charity to the poor, known as mattanot la-eyyonim. Eating a celebratory meal, known as se'udat Purim.

What are the symbolic actions and rituals of Shabbat?

Shabbat is ushered in by lighting candles and reciting a blessing. Traditionally, three festive meals are eaten: The first one is held on Friday evening, the second is traditionally a lunch meal on Saturday, and the third is held later in the afternoon. According to the **Torah**, **Shabbat** commemorates the day that God rested from creating the world; the word **Shabbat** literally means "he rested." Exodus 34:21 states: "Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest." Shabbat is considered a day of peace and holiness.