

Jewish Beliefs, Topics 1-3: Nature of God

- Monotheism** Jews believe God is **One**, meaning He is **eternal** and **indivisible** and beyond human form, so is the only being who should be praised
- The **Shema** states: “**Hear O Israel... God is One**”
- Creator** Jews believe God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh
- The **Torah** states: “**In the beginning, God created the Heaven and the Earth**”
- Sustainer** God continues to sustain the world by ensuring there is **enough produce for everyone** who needs, and by sustaining existence through continued creation
- Omnipotent** God is **All-Powerful** and more powerful than any other force
- Omniscient** God is **All-Knowing**
- Omnipresent** God **eternal** so He is unlimited by space and time
- Lawgiver** God’s relationship with the Jews is as Lawgiver because He demands that humans observe His **mitzvot - commandments**
- The **Torah** states: “**You shall obey my laws**”
- Judge** God will reward or punish individuals, based on judgement of their actions; there are two types of God’s judgement:
- On **Rosh Hashanah each year**, God judges all His creations, but we have the opportunity to earn forgiveness through atonement each Yom Kippur
- God also judges each soul **after death**, and this judgement is absolute and final because the life is already over so the sinner can no longer repent
- When someone dies, mourners say “**Blessed be the True Judge**”
- Shekhina** Jews believe that although God is omnipresent and without form, He can **manifest** Himself as **Shekhina** – The **Divine Presence**, including examples such as the burning bush, the pillar of cloud, and the smoke in the Temple
- The **Talmud** states “**When two Jews study Torah, the Shekhina rests with them**”