

JUDAISM – Progress Tracker

Jews believe they have been **chosen** by G-d to be his special people.

They are G-d's special people because he has made a strong agreement with them, called a **covenant**.

One part of this agreement is that G-d gave the Jews a '**Promised Land**' to live in, which is where the nation of **Israel** is located today.

Another part is that Jews agreed to follow G-d's instructions for living, which include the **Ten Commandments**.

One of the most famous events in Jewish history begins when the Israelites (first Jews) were held as **slaves** in ancient Egypt.

The prophet **Moses** told the Egyptian leader Pharaoh to set the Israelites free or G-d would send ten **plagues** against Egypt.

The last of these ten events, and their escape from Egypt, are celebrated every year by Jews in a festival called **Passover** (or *Pesach* in Hebrew).

The focus of this festival is a special **meal** during which the story is retold and certain foods and drinks are used to represent different events.

One of these is a very **bitter** tasting herb called *maror* – it brings tears to the eyes when eaten to recall harsh treatment and suffering in the story.

During the festival, no **electrical** items can be used, so all plugs are switched off and appliances put away for the whole day.

Throughout the year, many Jews will only eat foods which are '**kosher**' meaning they follow rules described in Jewish traditional laws.

Jews will go to a **synagogue** to worship G-d, where sometimes men and women sit in different parts of the building.

In this building, there is a special place to keep the holy text, called the **Torah scrolls**; they are regularly brought out so that Jews can hear readings.

The most sacred place for Jews is the city of **Jerusalem** in Israel, especially the Temple ruins called the **Western (or Wailing) Wall**.