

### Finding God Ten Jewish Responses

'This spirited encounter between a hardheaded atheist and a sophisticated theologian on the nature and existence of God can serve as a model for how to conduct a passionate and intelligent conversation on this most ultimate of issues.'—Rabbi Neil Gillman, Jewish Theological Seminary of America

The Basic Beliefs of Judaism gives an updated overview of the belief system on which the Jewish faith is based. Author Lawrence Epstein takes a contemporary point of view, looking at how the basic beliefs of Judaism fit into the lives of modern Jews.

Provides a comprehensive and easy to understand overview of Judaism as the belief system and way of life of the Jewish people.

Judaism has survived for four millennia, and many of its customs, laws, and traditions have remained exactly the same today as in the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Everything Judaism Book explains the major precepts of this robust religion in language anyone can understand and appreciate. From High Holy Days, such as Passover and Yom Kippur, to symbols and objects, such as the Star of David and the tallis prayer shawl, Jews and non-Jews alike will gain new understanding and insights into the rich diversity and seemingly

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endless complexity of Jewish practices and culture. Authoritative and thought-provoking, The Everything Judaism Book has been exhaustively reviewed for accuracy by Orthodox Rabbi Jacob Rosenthal and Reform Rabbi Robert Leib. The Everything Judaism Book is a terrific introduction if you're learning the religion for the first time, a great way to brush up on facts you may have forgotten from Hebrew school, and the perfect mitzvah (good deed) gift for a friend or relative.

An author and subject index to selected and American Anglo-Jewish journals of general and scholarly interests.

A collection of essays by leaders in the field of Jewish education geared to Jewish teachers in supplementary and day schools.

You're Jewish, aren't you? This blunt question is the way that college freshman Richard Cohn is introduced to an outspoken fellow student named Dov Epstein, who calls himself a Messianic Jew, and believes that God has a special purpose for the Jewish people in these Last Days. Raised by secular Jewish parents, Richard is completely oblivious to his own Jewish background, until this ongoing dialogue forces him to confront his own heritage. The two young men vigorously argue with each other over the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible (particularly its reputed predictions of a Messiah ), Christian doctrines such as the Trinity, and

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most significantly, about the identity and significance of Jesus of Nazareth. The rigorous process of self-examination this initiates leads Richard to embrace his Jewish identity, even as he vehemently denies the same for Dov. The two ultimately become fast friends; but as they progress from an academic environment to the professional world, they are challenged by racist statements made by prominent national figures, anti-Semitic doctrines such as Christian Identity which teaches that white Anglo-Saxons are the true Israel and also purported scholars who deny the reality of the Holocaust itself. Circumstances in life connect them with a young Iranian émigré named Jahangir Khatami, whose Muslim beliefs conflict strongly with their own. Yet when a violent incident brings the three of them together, they are forced to reexamine not just their differences, but their similarities. While they clash over the ideals of Zionism and its ramifications in the modern State of Israel, they are united in their horror over the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Join a diverse cast of characters (some of whom appeared in the author's earlier book, *Beyond Heaven and Earth*) in a probing exploration that may help you reconsider just what it means to be Jewish, Christian, or Muslim in the modern world.

The life of Moshe ben Maimon (Maimonides) remains a mystery to many within evangelical Christianity. However, he is lauded as a second Moses by many within

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modern Judaism. Does he deserve that title? Maimonides's *via negativa* created a rationale for rejecting the messiahship claims of Jesus in Rabbinic Judaism. Therefore, this book seeks to illustrate that Maimonides, in his desire to create an anti-Christian apologetic regarding the incarnation, fashioned a Judaism that does not reflect the truths of the Tanakh (Old Testament) and developed a Judaism that was untenable for the Jewish people of the twenty-first century. Many Jewish people today are turning in a thousand and one different directions for spiritual answers, but not in the only way that will offer the way to God: Jesus of Nazareth (John 14:6). This work examines the history of Maimonides, his teachings, and an apologetic approach to bring the gospel back to the Jewish people (Rom 1:16).

A rabbi offers an objective discussion of the many ways through which seekers can gain enrichment within the framework of Judaism, delineating each path's rituals, prayers, meditations, acts of transcendence, and more. Original.

A rabbi introduces Gentiles to the origins, doctrines, traditions, practices, laws, institutions, and beliefs of the Jewish religion

This is a book about God, specifically about the different ways Jews have spoken of God throughout history. In its examination of 4,000 years of Jewish thought, it presents the broad spectrum of theological opinions that have been explored and affirmed by great Jewish thinkers, ancient and modern. Many Jews today avoid speaking about God. Unable to accept the traditional notions presented to them as authoritative, they

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often turn to other faiths or cults that offer the possibility of spiritual expression more in keeping with their personal God concept. Unaware of the variety within Judaism, they abandon their religious community in the mistaken impression that their longing for God cannot be satisfied within the faith of their ancestors. In this book, the authors skillfully present ten distinct Jewish theological perspectives, each of which has something to say to us today about our lives as individuals and as Jews. Each grapples with the following crucial questions: What is God? Is there more than one God? What is God's name? How can we know God? What is God's relationship to the world? Does God have a special relationship with the Jewish people? What does God "want" from us? How does God relate to me? Why is there evil in the world? "If we make it possible for one Jew to reclaim his or her Jewish spiritual identity", the authors write, "if we help others to begin to talk about God without ambivalence or embarrassment, if we serve as a catalyst for further study of these and other Jewish thinkers, we will consider our work worthwhile".

A complete guide to Shabbat, from preparation to Havdalah, in 13 chapters. Each chapter starts with basics (all prayers translated and transliterated) and expands with "Getting Started" (insights for the beginner), "Parent-Child Corner," "From Tradition," as well as stories, discussion starters, and lots of art. Full color throughout.

Provides a systematic examination of process themes in Jewish theology. After tracing process motifs in the writings of contemporary Jewish thinkers, the text analyzes

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process theology as a form of postmodernism, discussing the tensions between it and more orthodox theologies.

Jewish Studies classrooms are legendary for their lack of discipline; Jewish schools of all formats are hard-pressed to find qualified teachers; and the quality of Jewish Studies curricula is lacking. Practical Pedagogy for the Jewish Classroom encourages Jewish professionals in education to review their own practices in these areas and challenges them to re-imagine and develop their own unique approach to teaching Jewish Studies so that they can articulate and implement their own visions of Jewish education.

Judaism and Christianity have different meanings for the concept of 'God.' These religions rely on different transmitted texts. Different words – in the biblical Hebrew, biblical Greek, biblical Latin, biblical English – contribute to confusion in meaning. For example, what does 'elohim' mean? Is there a difference between 'Yah' and 'Yahweh'? This book examines this confusion in meaning in the biblical texts. This confusion is at the heart of the divorce of Judaism and Christianity. Despite this, we can have a new way of understanding the concept "God", by which one may re-examine and support a minority point of view in rabbinic tradition, known as the "two powers in heaven" doctrine. Given this revision, there is ample reason for enlightened renewal of a "messianic" interpretation of both Jewish and Christian faiths. This book, therefore, speaks to theologians, philosophers of religion with interests in Jewish and Christian religious traditions, students of philosophy, and informed believers.

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This ready reference tells the history of the Jewish people through a detailed chronology, an introductory essay, an extensive bibliography, and over 200 cross-referenced dictionary entries on significant persons, places, events, institutions, and aspects of culture, society, economy, and politics. This book is an excellent access point for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about the Jewish people.

Customs, mysticism, Hebrew and Yiddish literature, and Jewish feminism.

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With its unique combination of primary sources and historical narrative, this book provides an important new perspective on Holocaust history. Covering the final year of Nazi destruction and the immediate postwar years, it traces the increasingly urgent Jewish struggle for survival, which included armed resistance and organized escape attempts. Shedding light on both the personal and public lives of Jews through letters, diaries, photographs, drawings, speeches, newspapers, and government documents, this book provides compelling insights into a wide range of Jewish experiences during the Holocaust.

Spiritually nourishing approaches to help you become more insightful, inspired parents and raise soulfully engaged children. Kipnes and November share their hard-won parenting techniques and spirit-filled activities, rituals and prayers to help you cultivate strong Jewish values and cherished spiritual memories in your own family.

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This valuable reference extensively documents the lives and careers of the most influential leaders of Reform Judaism in America. An essay on the history of Reform Judaism begins the work. The essay is followed by a biographical dictionary, which profiles the careers and achievements of the principal architects of reform, national organizational leaders, distinguished rabbis and academicians, outstanding cantors, lay volunteers, and women. Each entry closes with a bibliography of works by and about the person discussed. A series of essays review the history of particular organizations, and a set of appendices lists the principal figures affiliated with these associations. The volume concludes with an exhaustive bibliography of primary and secondary sources. A handbook for Jewish teachers containing teaching information on 41 mitzvot. Each chapter includes an overview with historical background and information, activities organized by grade level, and resources, both print and media.

Drawing from information on more than 50 great spiritual leaders, this celebration of Jewish spirituality includes contributions from Norman J. Cohen, Ron Wofson, Judy Greenfield, Elyse Godstein, and many others.

Volume II begins with Kristallnacht in 1938 and continues through Jewish flight out of Germany, the onset of World War II, the forced relocation of the Jews of Europe to the East, and the formation of Jewish ghettos, particularly in Poland.

This book relates the experience of researching, planning, and conducting a scientific study into intercessory prayer (prayer for others). The purpose of the study was to ascertain whether the impact of prayer could be measured in a formal study, based on the large number of

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anecdotal reports of efficacy. The study was a prospectively randomized double-blind trial that added prayer by an established Christian prayer group to conventional therapy for cancer. The unique design feature was that the primary endpoint was a change in a validated scale of spiritual well-being. The patients were informed that they were participating in a study about spiritual well-being and quality of life but remained blinded to the intervention. The initial observation from the baseline data was that spiritual well-being made a unique contribution to quality of life. The final outcome of the study was that there was a statistically significant difference in spiritual well-being favoring the prayer group. The background includes a fascinating review of the medical literature on the topic, which contains positive and negative studies that each attracts a vigorous debate about methodology, endpoints, and whether metaphysical phenomena can or should be studied using scientific methodology. The complementary and alternative medicine literature is also equivocal as to whether prayer, arguably the most common complementary medical therapy, should be included in the range of interventions grouped under that heading. In addition to reporting the background and results of the study, the book explores the reactions of a range of individuals to the trial, all of which help reflect on the nature of prayer.

The first edition of this award-winning reference, published in 1977, contained 425 biographical profiles of the most significant American religious leaders. Bowden has added profiles for 125 additional figures, and the earlier sketches have been revised and updated. Each profile contains a capsule summary of the figure's life, followed by a discussion of the historical context of the figure's contribution and a bibliography of works by and about the individual. Appendices categorize the figures by religious denomination and place of birth. The dictionary

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contains entries for individuals who died before July 1, 1992, and reflects America's cultural and religious diversity.

Looks at how the concept of the Jewish God has evolved over the centuries and shows how Judaism can be made more meaningful and relevant to one's life.

This book deals with many questions relating to Judaism's view of afterlife, drawing on textual sources, medieval thought, mystical literature, and contemporary writers from each denomination of Judaism.

The modern Jew, living in a world of shattered beliefs and competing ideologies, is often confronted with questions of faith. Sacred Fragments is for those who still care enough to continue the struggle. In forthright, nontechnical language the author addresses the most difficult theological questions of our time and shows that there are still viable Jewish answers for even the greatest skeptics.

Explores an astonishing range of primary and secondary sources about this 3000-year-old tradition, explaining these teachings' significance for Jews of the past and infusing them with new meaning for the modern reader, both Jewish and non-Jewish."

The life of Holocaust survivor Dr. Heinz Hartmann is a fascinating one indeed, from escaping Hitler's concentration camps as a young man to making house-calls as a general practitioner in America. As chronicled in his compelling 1986 autobiography, *Once a Doctor, Always a Doctor: The Memories of a German-Jewish Immigrant Physician*, Hartmann completed his medical studies in the 1930s, when the Nazis were in power. Just two weeks after his wedding to the beautiful Herta, a young nurse,

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Hartmann and scores of other Jewish men were taken by the Nazis to Buchenwald. It was these horrifying experiences that he drew upon when interviewed by Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation in its research for the movie "Schindler's List" as well as for libraries internationally. In this touching new book *In Search of Self, In the Service of Others*, Hartmann recounts his and Herta's escape from Nazi Germany, their loving relationship, and her fatal struggle with pancreatic cancer. He also examines the many years of love and caregiving he devoted to his physically and mentally retarded son, Michael, who was born healthy but experienced a crippling reaction to a vaccination at only five and a half months of age. This enlightening and tremendously personal memoir also offers the doctor's thoughts on the future of medicine, what it means to be Jewish in modern society, and special thoughts about the people who have influenced his life.

Have you ever wondered what happens to us when we die? What if you really HAD to know? When tragedy strikes the family of young Jobran Winter, he is forced to confront these questions directly. Undertaking a feverish "Quest," he explores various branches of Christianity; Judaism; Islam; Hinduism; Buddhism; Sikhism, as well as the religions of China and Japan. His search encompasses the New Age, Reincarnation, Spiritism and Psychical Research. Attending channeling sessions and seances, investigating haunted houses and Near-Death Experiences, he examines spiritual traditions ranging from Swedenborg to Scientology, from Jodo Shinshu to the Jehovah's Witnesses. Finally,

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the Quest brings him into direct contact with Hospice work; physical disability; child abandonment; abortion; suicide; euthanasia, and even cold-blooded murder. Encounter the doctrines of Purgatory & Predestination, Universalism & Annihilationism, as you journey in a novel that will make you reexamine your ideas about religion, skepticism, love, death . . . and LIFE.

Offers profiles of contemporary Jews who are discovering new ways of practicing Judaism and new interpretations of Jewish texts, including the founders of the Havurah movement, feminists, young families, and gays. 15,000 first printing.

Sicker attempts to deal with the awesome question, "Where was God at Auschwitz?" and with it some of the related central issues of Judaic thought and belief that have come under critical challenge. He argues that traditional non-dogmatic Judaic theology does not require radical revision but a sympathetic understanding of its assumptions and ideas and a desire to reformulate them in more modern terms.

The Reader's Guide to Judaism is a survey of English-language translations of the most important primary texts in the Jewish tradition. The field is assessed in some 470 essays discussing individuals (Martin Buber, Gluckel of Hameln), literature (Genesis, Ladino Literature), thought and beliefs (Holiness, Bioethics), practice (Dietary Laws, Passover), history (Venice, Baghdadi Jews of India), and arts and material culture (Synagogue Architecture, Costume). The emphasis is on Judaism, rather than on Jewish studies more broadly.

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