

Beliefs and Practices, of the various Jewish Movements

This document provides information about the various Jewish “movements”. The information is presented as a series of **questions** – with the answers that each movement would give to those questions listed on “charts” underneath the questions. The seven Jewish movements that are described are as follows:

Reform, Reconstructionist, Renewal, Conservative, Orthodox, Ultra-Orthodox, and Karaite

Question 1: Is God a personal being, or an “impersonal force”?

God does not exist <u>at all</u>	God is an “impersonal force”	God is a personal being – He is our Heavenly Father	God is a personal being – and He has 10 “emanations”
Reconstructionist	Reform Renewal	Conservative Karaite	Orthodox Ultra-Orthodox

Question 2: Is there a “personal Messiah” – i.e., is there a specific, chosen person who will establish the Kingdom of God on the Earth?

No	Yes
Reform Reconstructionist Renewal	Conservative Orthodox Ultra-Orthodox Karaite

Question 3: How important is it to follow the Torah’s commandments?

Completely optional	Generally recommended	Absolutely mandatory
Renewal Reform	Conservative Reconstructionist	Orthodox Ultra-Orthodox Karaite

Question 4: Was the Torah given to us by God, or did people come up with it on their own?

Man made it up	God inspired men to write it	Every single letter is directly from God
Reconstructionist Renewal Reform	Conservative	Karaite Orthodox Ultra-Orthodox

Question 5: What does the Talmud contain – the opinions of rabbis, or the commands of God?

Opinions of Rabbis		Commands of God
Reform Reconstructionist Renewal Karaites	Conservative	Orthodox Ultra-Orthodox

Question 6: Will people be resurrected after they die – and do people have “immortal souls”?

No resurrection at <u>all</u>	Resurrection, but <u>no</u> immortal soul	Resurrection, <u>with</u> immortal soul
Reform Reconstructionist	Conservative Karaites	Orthodox Ultra-Orthodox Renewal

Question 7: Will the Temple ever be rebuilt?

No	Yes, but with restrictions	Yes – as listed in Ezekiel
Reform Reconstructionist Renewal	Conservative	Orthodox Ultra-Orthodox Karaites

Question 8: Is gay marriage permitted?

Yes	Yes, but <u>no sex</u> is permitted in gay marriages	No
Reform Reconstructionist Renewal	Conservative	Orthodox Ultra-Orthodox Karaites

Question 9: How much meditation / dancing / “emotional outbursts” are used in worship services?

Very little	Some	Quite a bit
Karaites Orthodox	Conservative Reconstructionist	Reform Renewal Ultra-Orthodox