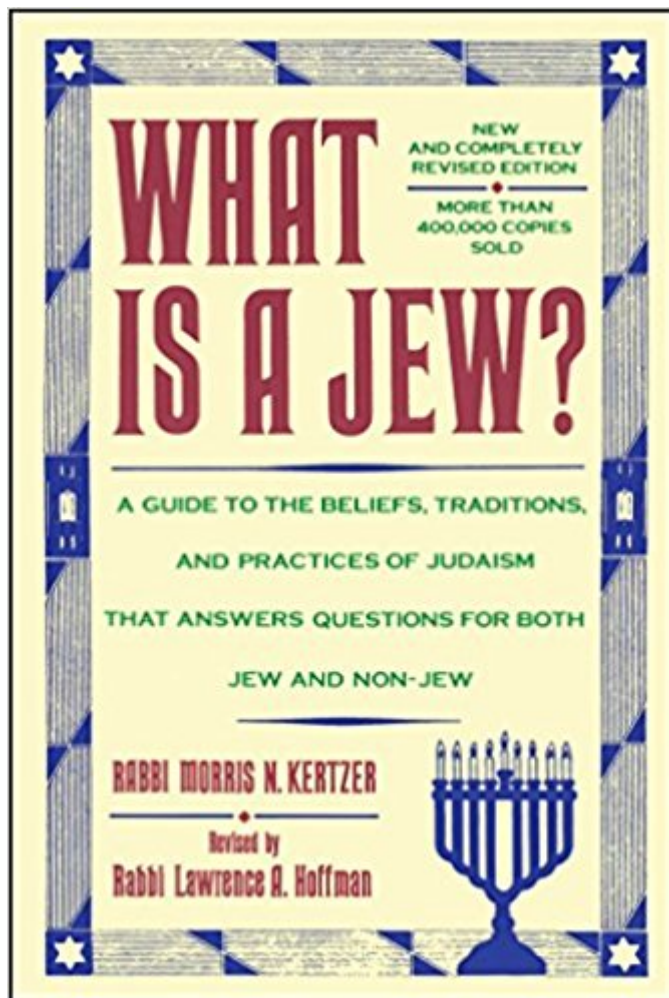


The book was found

What Is A Jew?



Synopsis

With over 400,000 copies sold, > is the classic guide that answers 100 of the most commonly asked questions about Jewish life and customs. Completely revised and reorganized, this guide to the traditions, beliefs, and practices of Judaism "for both Jews and non-Jews" tackles a wide range of subjects in a question-and-answer format. Ideal for conversion students, interfaith couples, and congregants seeking answers to essential day-to-day issues.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kertzer, who died in 1984, wrote the first edition of this book in 1953. He revised it three times, most recently in 1978. Now his nephew, also a rabbi and professor at the Hebrew Union College, has revised the book again. Originally intended to "guide non-Jews to a better understanding of their fellow Jewish Americans" as well as to "enable Jews themselves to rediscover forgotten roots of tradition and belief," the book still serves this purpose admirably, addressing all of the traditional questions: What in general do Jews believe? What are Orthodox Jews? What is Torah? Also addressed are newer concerns: What is the Jewish attitude toward feminism? According to Judaism, do animals have rights? Why do Jews persist in remembering the Holocaust? About half the material in this revised edition is new; the entire book is written from a calmly instructional, nonevangelical viewpoint and in an engaging style that will appeal to young people and old, Jews and non-Jews. Highly recommended for all public and school libraries.- Marcia Welsh, Guilford Free Lib., Ct. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The former Chaplain has written the best book about exactly what is a Jew that I'm aware of. This book should be recommended not only to every Jew (various streams) but also non-Jews, who think they know and are usually wrong. 19m Jews were living prior to WW2, after about 13m., which hasn't changed since then. For those who convert to, there are 10 who convert out. Inter-marriage and assimilation are dwindling the people. Only the obvious are obvious. Closet Jews abound. Jewish institutions are dying (community centers). Non-Jews have an advantage we don't, they have their Messiah. We have a concept, not enough to sustain us. 17% are kosher, and most Jews don't attend the temple. Disobeying the Laws of Moses is in vogue. Liberalism has replaced Torah in most homes. Christmas trees are accepted as part of the US culture. What is a Jew, give some definition in an otherwise futile effort.

I must have given away a dozen copies of this book to interested non-Jewish friends who want to know the differences between Judaism and Christianity and to better understand Judaism.

Some books on religion give a warm fuzzy feeling - others give a lot of detailed information. This work is definitely in category two! In a question-response format (114 of each), this volume manages to cover almost anything one would want to know about Judaism. Originally written by the late Rabbi Morris N. Kertner, his nephew Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman has updated it. ("What Is a Jew" was first published in 1953, and has gone through three revisions, and countless reprints.) A new feature I found very useful in this revised edition is its transliteration of Hebrew words -- abundant in this work -- as they occur, together with their meanings. The 148 Hebrew (and occasionally Yiddish or Aramaic) terms used throughout the text are brought together in a glossary at the end of the volume, too. ---- Though this book is written from a "middle of the road" Jewish perspective, it carefully points out the differences between the four contemporary major divisions of Judaism (Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, and Reconstructionist schools). "What Is a Jew" also gives fair treatment to the Chasidim (Hassidim), and such historical schools as the Sadducees, Pharisees, Mitnagdim, and others. To give an idea of the range of questions covered in this paperback, here is a brief sample: "Who Were 'The Rabbis'?" ; "What is Halachah?" ; "Is There a Priesthood in Judaism?" ; "Do Jews Believe Literally in Satan?" ; "According to Judaism, Do Animals Have Rights?" ; "What is the Difference Between A Synagogue, a Shul, and A Temple?" ; Why Do Some Jews Keep Only One Day of a Holy Day, While Others Keep Two?" ; and "What Is the Jewish Attitude Toward Divorce?" ; "Does Judaism Accept Converts?" , and many other equally interesting

topics. ---- I believe that whoever masters the contents of this fascinating volume will be well on his/her way to a fascinating voyage of discovery. Any non-Jew (like myself) who has ever been invited to a Bar Mitzvah, and has come out of the synagogue laden with questions, will find his/her journey out of ignorance a pleasant and rewarding one! This is as good a guide as I have been able to find...

Judaism is complicated. Way, way complicated. This book would be a great brush-up for seasoned Jews looking for renewed points of interest, converts to the faith, or family of converts or Jews. It outlines the different families/sects of Judaism, provides overview history, and goes into various holidays, etc. It's a really, really good starting point if you don't know much about the faith and culture and are curious.

I know what is a Christian and I know what is a Muslim. I did not fully understand what a Jew was. Is it a race of people or is it a culture or is it a religion? I now know enough to confidently say that a Jew is one who accepts the faith of Judaism. Jesus and Christmas are not recognized in Judaism. Good information to know in America. I am looking for more information regarding the people who are considered Jews. I just received *The Chosen Few, How Education Shaped Jewish History 70 -1492*.

Very informative & insightful book. It helped answer a lot of the questions I had on what Judaism is and what being Jewish means.

One of the best introductory books for Jews and non-Jews around. It provides many insights into Jewish practices and thoughts. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in a broad understanding of where and why the Jewish people stand on different issues in our lives yesterday, today and always.

This is not a kindle version of the most recent edition, this is a kindle edition of the first edition from 1953.

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