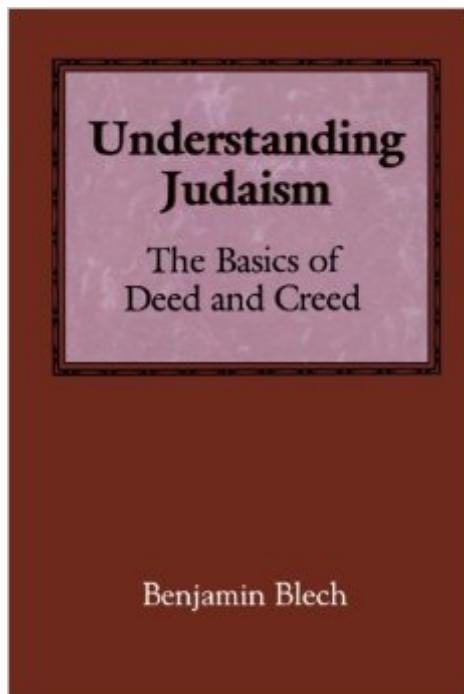


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# Understanding Judaism: The Basics Of Deed And Creed



## **Synopsis**

Judaism is primarily a religion of actions rather than beliefs. When the Jewish people accepted God's covenant, they committed themselves first to obedience and practice, and then to striving to understand the message implicit in the Torah. In *Understanding Judaism: The Basics of Deed and Creed*, a perfect textbook for independent and classroom study, Rabbi Benjamin Blech presents a comprehensive explication of the Jewish faith. What does it mean to be a Jew? How does religion affect the ways in which Jewish people think and act? What are the basic concepts of Judaism? This volume answers these vital questions.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

It's subtitle, "The Basics of Deed and Creed" indicates one of its purposes; to compare/contrast Judaism, in a non-pejorative way, with Christianity. Judaism is more about what someone DOES rather than about what he believes; not that belief is unimportant. The sense is that belief is important mainly as an impulse to righteous behavior rather than in and of itself. Understanding Judaism is, along with Rabbi Irving Greenberg's "The Jewish Way," and Moshe Chayim Luzatto's "The Way of God," one the best introductions to Jewish theology available for the general reader. One of the best ways to illustrate its content is to list some of its provocative chapter titles: If You Had to Choose Only One Mitzvah, There Are No Ten Commandments, Why Were the Ten Given?, Why Did God Give Us Two Tablets?, Who Comes First, Man or God?, Why is God First on the Tablets?, Enjoy Life on this Earth, Does God Care About Non-Jews?, The Source of the Seven Universal Laws, The Thirteen Fundamentals of Belief, Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good

People?, Can we "Prove" God's Existence?, Who is Satan?, Do We Really Have Free Will?, Does God Speak to Man?, Are We Close to the Time of the Messianic Era?With all the existing controversy about posting the Ten Commandments in a public place, few people can even name them. Rabbi Blech not only lucidly explains their meaning and inherent structure, but points out that there are three different versions -- Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish -- and compares the versions in his chapter, "Why Did God Give Us Two Tablets?" This chapter contains the best such comprehensive discussion of the Ten Commandments that I know of.I am confident that everyone who reads this book will thank me for recommending it.

Starting from the Ten Commandments and the Thirteen Principles of Faith rabbi Blech gives a very clear and inspiring overview of Jewish "theology" and view of life. A must read for people who want to know more about Judaism. Enjoyed every moment of it.

Any person interested in Judaism, spirituality or religion in general should read this book. This book is filled pearls of wisdom. Not too much, yet not too little. Rabbi Blech has made difficult concepts easy to understand. I give it \*\*\*\*\*If need something that is even easier. You can read Rabbi Blech's "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Judaism" which is based on this book and as an "idiot's guide" is very well layed out.

Excellent study text. Author does not assume you know everything already, but does not patronize, either. Easy to read and understand without glossing over the difficult concepts. Insightful--and occasional--comparison and contrast with Christianity aids comprehension. The scriptures were written to people of the time who understood the idiomatic expressions and cultural references; westerners often don't, and Christians rarely do. This book helps fill in some of that missing information, and the reader may anticipate frequent "ah ha!!" moments.The author writes with an unfortunate and inaccurate bias that assumes the Catholic Church is the best example of all Christianity. Once past that, this book is to be highly recommended for those who wish to better understand their own ethnic and/or spiritual roots whether Jewish or Christian.

Rabbi Benjamin Blech's Understanding Judaism is a clear yet highly readable approach to understanding the principles of Judaism. Using concrete examples to illustrate the meaning behind abstract ideas, Understanding Judaism becomes a living document filled with common sense wisdom that everyone, not just Jews, can appreciate. If you are a wayward Jew, this is an excellent

book to lead you back. If you are a Christian seeking to know the difference between Judaism and Christianity, there can be no clearer presentation, void of negative criticism. This is not a spiritual document, but rather an intellectual discourse on the reasoning behind Jewish actions. Deeds--what you do with your life--is the measure with which Jews are evaluated. This book should certainly be in every Jewish home library.Thought Passion Action

The wisdom contained in this book is priceless. Could hardly put it down when it arrived then realized that it is better read in small doses in order to absorb the depth of its wisdom. Highly recommend.

I have been using this book as the source material for a class on Judaism. This is an excellent book which covers complex issues in a comprehensive and readable manner. I have been learning more from this book than from almost any other book on Judaism!

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