

THE 13 PRINCIPLES OF JUDAISM

It is to Maimonides that Judaism owes the most concise summary of the basic belief system of Judaism. This list of the 13 principles of Judaism is used as a guide in almost all synagogues, in the form of a prayer called "Yigdal". The 13 principles are as follows:

- 1) I believe with complete faith that the Creator, Blessed is His Name, creates and guides all creatures, and that He alone made, makes, and will make everything.
- 2) I believe with complete faith that the Creator, Blessed is His Name, is unique, and there is no uniqueness like His in any way, and that He alone is our (Yahveh) God, Who was, Who is, and Who always will be.
- 3) I believe with complete faith that the Creator, Blessed is His Name, is not physical and is not affected by physical phenomena, and that there is no comparison whatsoever to Him.
- 4) I believe with complete faith that the Creator, Blessed is His Name, is the very first and the very last.
- 5) I believe with complete faith that the Creator, Blessed is His Name, --to Him alone is it proper to pray, and it is not proper to pray to any other.
- 6) I believe with complete faith that all the words of the prophets are true.
- 7) I believe with complete faith that all the words of the prophecy of Moses our teacher, peace upon him, was true, and that he was the father of the prophets--both those who preceded him and those who followed him.
- 8) I believe with complete faith that the entire Torah now in our hands is the same one that was given to Moses, our teacher, peace be upon him.
- 9) I believe with complete faith that this Torah will not be exchanged nor will there be another Torah from the Creator, Blessed be His Name.
- 10) I believe with complete faith that the Creator, Blessed is His Name, knows all the deeds of human beings and their thoughts, as it is said, "He fashions their hearts all together, He comprehends all their deeds."
- 11) I believe with complete faith that the Creator, Blessed is His Name, rewards with good those who observe His commandments, and punishes those who violate His commandments.
- 12) I believe with complete faith in the coming of the Messiah, and that even though he may delay, nevertheless I anticipate every day that he will come.
- 13) I believe with complete faith that there will be a resurrection of the dead whenever the wish emanates from the Creator, Blessed is His Name and exalted is His mention, forever and for all eternity. (Mar 16/16) Jerry Hennig