

Jewish Links of Interest

Here are some links that have valuable information on Judaism:

Aish HaTorah (an informative web site that reaches out to Jews where they are at): <http://aish.edu>

Lights in Action (especially for college students): <http://www.lia.org/>

Ohr Someach: (just plain informative) <http://www.ohr.org.il/>

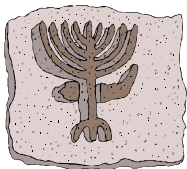


Image of an ancient menorah carving with a shofar. Jewish symbols when used for Jewish purposes.

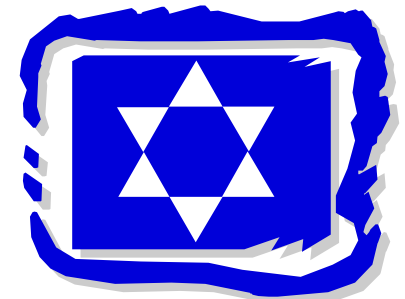
Jewish (non-messianic) organizations have permission to copy this as many times as needed and to replace Cleveland learning with local Jewish learning, or to add a link. Content of the brochure copyrighted by Shomrai HaBrit.

Shomrai HaBrit — Keepers of the Covenant
Dedicated to keeping Jews Jewish.

Shomrai HaBrit —
Keepers of the Covenant

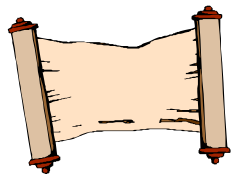
What really happens after I die?

A Jewish look at the afterlife



Web site: <http://www.geocities.com/keepcovenant>

What really happens after I die?



"The Torah is a tree of life to all who hold it, its path is pleasant

Judaism believes in an afterlife. Surprised?

We don't talk about it much, because we concentrate on this world and what we do here. We are a life-centered religion, as life is where we get things done. It is also where we plant the seeds of our own afterlife.

There is no eternal "Hellfire". More than one world religion believes in a place of eternal punishment. Not so in Judaism. That does not mean that wrong-doers just get away with it. However, our loving G-d knows that we are human and sometimes miss the mark.

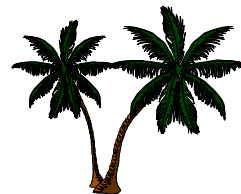
Ideally we fix our mistakes in this life, but sometimes we leave some mistakes that we did not fix. In this case, the soul may be sent by G-d to a place where they can correct these mistakes. This place is called Gehenna and the maximum time spent there is 12 months of the Jewish calendar. In fact, the reason a Jewish mourner says the Kaddish for 11 months is we like to think our parents could not have done anything so bad that

they get the maximum stay in Gehenna.

How wonderful! G-d loves us so much that He made a place where the bad things we did in life and did not correct can be fixed, where our soul can be purified. He loves us so much that He wants us to fix our mistakes during life, but if we don't, He does not torment us for eternity, He sends us to a repair shop for the soul, Gehenna. While even a second there may seem a long time, it is certainly not eternity, nor is 12 months. Eventually the punishment is over and the purified soul goes to Gan Eden.

So what about Heaven? We call heaven Gan Eden, meaning paradise, or Olam Haba meaning the world to come. In Pirke Avot, Ethics of the Fathers, we are told that all Israel has a share in the world to come. That's right, every single Jew has a portion in the world to come.

That does not mean, of course, that everyone has the same portion in the world to come, as we each will have lead very different lives. What kind of portion we have depends on our actions. G-d loves us, and like a loving parent, wants to see us do are very best. One act of kindness towards another can have ripple effect. We can never know how far



Gan Eden or Olam Haba, are Jewish words for the paradise of the afterlife

an act of good can go, nor can we know what our portion will be, but we do know that G-d has a place for us in Olam Haba.

What about non-Jews? The Sages teach us that "the righteous of all nations have a share in the world to come." G-d does not set impossible tasks. It is possible for any human to be righteous. This fact is why we Jews do not missionize, G-d gave them their own path to Olam Haba.

Cleveland area learning opportunities:

[Aish HaTorah](#): (216) 321-7277

[Cleveland College of Jewish Studies](#):

(216) 464-4050

Shomrai HaBrit — Keepers of the Covenant

Dedicated to keeping Jews Jewish.

Web site: <http://www.geocities.com/keepcovenant/>

Email: shomrai@earthlink.net