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| **RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF JUDAISM WITHIN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF BELIEF** |

**(This list is not exhaustive and each belief will need further explanation and an example of how it is expressed in the aspects)**

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Ultimate Reality**

**The belief that the Ultimate Reality is…….**

**The belief that God is…..**

* God is a single unity
* God is a universal God
* God is incorporeal
* God is the creator of the universe in its entirety
* God is the lawgiver
* God is just and merciful
* God is all powerful, all knowing
* God is a personal, loving God
* God is the redeemer, God will bring the Messiah
* God is transcendent
* God is immanent
* God has a particular covenantal relationship with the Jewish people
* God is the provider

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Nature and Purpose of humanity**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the beliefs about the nature and purpose of humanity are…….**

**The belief that the nature of humanity is …….**

* that humanity is created in God’s image
* that humanity has free will
* that humanity has a yetzer tov (good inclination) and a yetzer tov (bad inclination)
* that humans have a body and a soul
* that humanity is a social being

**The belief that the purpose of humanity is…….**

* to act ‘imitatio dei’ in attributes and actions
* to assist in God’s creation
* to be a custodian of the natural world
* to bring about tikkun olam (repair/transformation of the world)
* to procreate (marriage and family)
* to perform mitzvot (commandments)
* to hasten the coming of Messiah

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Meaning of Suffering**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the beliefs about the meaning of suffering are that suffering is …….**

* a punishment for sin (divine retribution)
* a divine mystery
* a test of faith
* disciplinary (corrective)
* redemptive
* revelatory
* vicarious

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Death and the Afterlife**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the beliefs about death are...the beliefs about the afterlife are ...that death is …..that the afterlife is...**

* a natural part of the cycle of life
* a righteous judgment by God
* everyone is equal in death
* the soul is immortal and returns to God
* a path to resurrection
* where the soul is judged
* union with God
* reincarnation

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Relationship between Ultimate Reality and Humanity**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the beliefs about the relationship between Ultimate Reality and humanity are that it is …….**

* a close relationship
* a covenantal relationship
* one of God’s sovereignty over subordinate humanity
* a precious/loving relationship
* a partnership
* one of spiritual guidance
* one of justice and mercy

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Relationship between humans**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the belief about the relationshipbetween humans are that it is …….**

* a respectful relationship
* a relationship that acknowledges the dignity of all human beings
* a duty to save human life
* to respect the dead and comfort the mourner
* a duty bound relationship

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Relationship between human life and the rest of the natural world**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the belief about the relationship between human life and the rest of the natural world is that it is …….**

* one of respect
* one of responsibility - do not destroy
* one of custodianship - ethical treatment of animals
* a hierarchical relationship