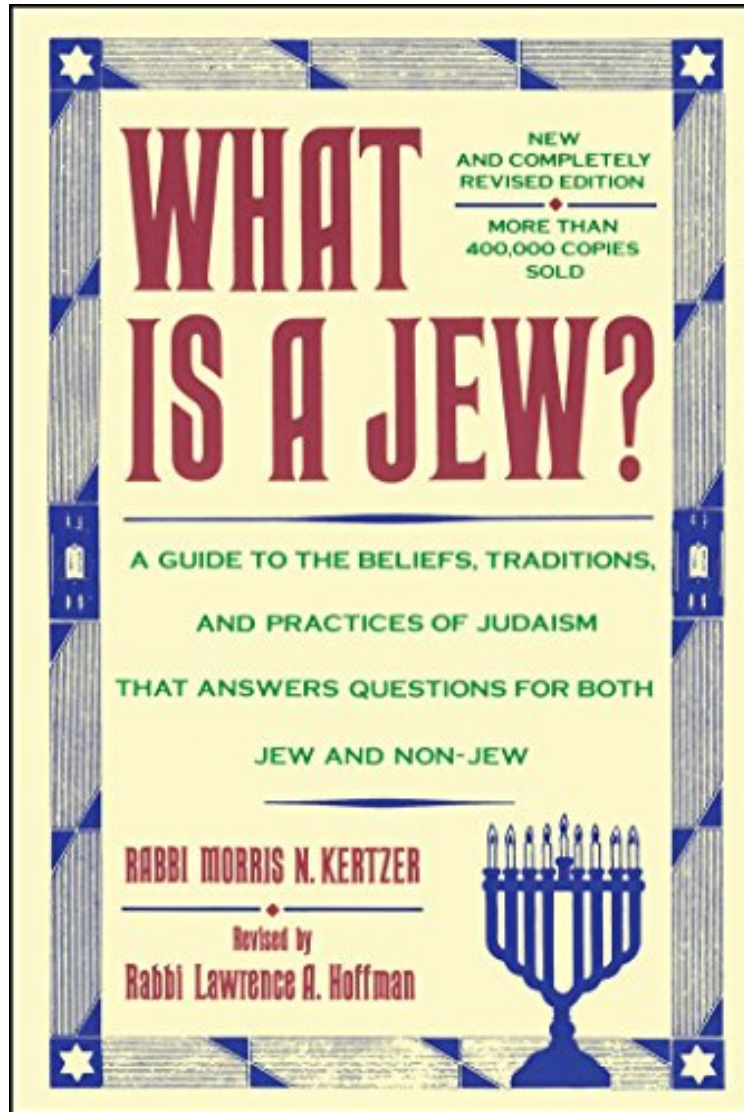


[Pdf free] What is a Jew?

What is a Jew?

Morris N. Kertzer

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#117782 in Books Rabbi Morris N Kertzer 1996-11-01 1996-11-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x 1.20 x 5.50l, .67 #File Name: 068484298X336 pagesWhat Is a Jew | File size: 46.Mb

Morris N. Kertzer : What is a Jew? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What is a Jew?:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One of the Best Definitionsw EverBy Dav LevThe 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 toevery 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.Intermarriage and assimilation are dwindlingthe people. Only the obvious are obvious. Closet Jews abound. Jewish

institutions are dying (communit 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.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great primer on Judaism!

By Jeanne Holland 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. 33 of 33 people found the following review helpful. Really neat introduction!

By Thomas J. Brucia 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...

With over 400,000 copies sold, *What Is a Jew?* 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.

From *Library Journal* 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.