

Vocabulary List/Symbols

☞ Mezuzah

On the doorposts of traditional Jewish homes, you will find a small case known as a mezuzah ("doorpost"), because it is placed upon the doorposts of the house. The mezuzah is not; as some suppose, a good-luck charm, nor does it have any connection with the lamb's blood placed on the doorposts in Egypt. Rather, it is a constant reminder of God's presence and God's commandments.



☞ Menorah

One of the oldest symbols of the Jewish faith is the menorah, a seven-branched candelabrum used in the Temple. It has been a symbol of Judaism since ancient times and the emblem of the modern state of Israel.



☞ Tallit - The Jewish Prayer Shawls

The tallit (also known as the tallis) is a special prayer shawl that is used during Jewish prayer. The tallit is made from a large piece of woven fabric and on the four corners of the tallit are tzitzit – fringes that are tied. *"You shall make yourself twisted threads, on the four corners of your garment with which you cover yourself."* (Deut 22:12)



☞ Yarmulke

A yarmulke (also called a skullcap or by its Hebrew name, kippah) is a small, round head covering worn by Jews during prayer and by some Jews at all times. Though yarmulkes have been worn by men traditionally, more Jewish women are choosing to don specially-designed ladies yarmulkes as an expression and reminder of their faith.



☞ *Star of David*

The Star of David is a six-pointed star made up of two triangles superimposed over each other. In Judaism it is often called the Magen David, which means the "shield of David" in Hebrew. It is one of the symbols most commonly associated with the Jewish people. Many Jews wear jewelry with the Star of David as part of the design and the flag of Israel has a blue Star of David in the center. In many ways it has come to be a symbol of unity.



☞ *Tallit - The Jewish Prayer Shawls*

A rabbi is simply a teacher, a person sufficiently educated in halakhah (Jewish law) and tradition to instruct the community and to answer questions and resolve disputes regarding halakhah. When a person has completed the necessary course of study, he is given a written document known as a semikhah, which confirms his authority to make such decisions.



☞ *Synagogues*

The synagogue is the Jewish equivalent of a church, more or less. It is the center of the Jewish religious community. It is a place of prayer, study and education, social and charitable work, as well as a social center.



☞ *Temples*

The Temple is the ancient center of Jewish worship where sacrifices were performed.

