



Judaism: A Very Short Introduction

By Norman Solomon

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Norman Solomon's succinct book is an ideal introduction to Judaism as a religion and way of life. In addition to surveying the nature and development of Judaism, this Very Short Introduction outlines the basics of practical Judaism -- its festivals, prayers, customs, and various sects. Modern concerns and debates of the Jewish people are also addressed, such as the impact of the Holocaust, the establishment of the State of Israel, the status of women, and medical and commercial ethics.

About the Series: Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, **Very Short Introductions** offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam

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Judaism: A Very Short Introduction By Norman Solomon **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

Review

‘Throughout Solomon’s Judaism there is a freshness of approach which will make it interesting to those who already know something about Judaism. The conversational style will also make it valuable for beginners.’
Marcus Braybrooke, Church Times

‘Just as its name implies, this series features concise works that aim to give a crisp insight into otherwise complicated topics ... complicated subjects are condensed and made simple, to whet the appetite or provide just enough material for those with a casual interest.’

Bournemouth Evening Echo

‘Norman Solomon has achieved the near impossible with his enlightened Very Short Introduction to Judaism. He manages to keep the reader engaged, never patronizes, assumes little knowledge but a keen mind, and takes us through Jewish life and history with such gusto that one feels enlivened, rather than exhausted, at the end.’

Rabbi Julia Neuberger

‘A magnificent achievement. Dr Solomon’s treatment, fresh, very readable, witty and stimulating, will delight everyone interested in religion in the modern world.’

Louis Jacobs, University of Lancaster

‘This book will serve a very useful purpose indeed. I’ll use it myself to discuss, to teach, agree with, and disagree with, in the Jewish manner!’

Rabbi Lionel Blue

About the Author

Dr Norman Solomon is a freelance writer and journalist, and a regular contributor to the Jewish Chronicle. He is a Fellow in Modern Jewish Thought at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. His previous publications include Judaism and World Religion and he contributed to The Oxford Companion to the Jewish Religion.

From [AudioFile](#)

It’s not easy to sum up thousands of years of tradition in a few hours, but this recording does an admirable job. Norman Solomon begins by explaining Jewish identity in the past and present and describing the historical relationship between Judaism and Christianity. While he spends some time going over major Jewish thinkers, the most informative sections deal with Jewish celebrations and customs, including a warm and insightful chapter on keeping a Jewish home. David Horovitch not only handles the Hebrew words confidently, he also embodies Solomon’s dry sense of humor. D.B. © AudioFile 2005, Portland, Maine--
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