

onen

the name given to a bereaved person between the death and the burial

Orthodox Judaism

that which adheres to strictly traditional practices

passover

an ancient Jewish festival commemorating the time when the angel of death passed over the homes of the Hebrews living in Egypt

pentateuch

the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, the foundation of the Jewish religion; also known as the Torah

polygamy

the practice of having more than one marriage partner

rabbi

a Jewish religious  
teacher

redemption

a biblical doctrine based on  
the belief that God will  
redeem (save) his chosen  
people from destruction

Reform Judaism

a Jewish movement originating  
in 19th century Germany which  
sought to modernise and  
modify many traditional  
religious practices

sabbath

the weekly holy day, a  
day of rest from  
sundown on Friday to  
sundown on Saturday

shechinah

the divine presence  
of God

shechitah

the ritual  
slaughtering of  
animals for food

shema

the declaration of faith:  
'Hear O'Israel, the Lord  
your God, the Lord is  
One" (Deuteronomy 6:4)

shidduchin

the period of betrothal  
(engagement) preceding  
marriage

shloshim

the 30-day period of  
mourning after burial  
of the deceased

synagogue

a Jewish house of  
worship

tallit

a prayer shawl

talmud

a major text, with two forms: the Babylonian and the Palestinian

tenakh

an anagram given to the Hebrew Scriptures, comprising the law, the prophets and the writings

torah

the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, the foundation of the Jewish religion; also known as the Pentateuch

yarmulke

a skullcap worn by Jewish men, especially when performing sacred tasks