

Exterior of a synagogue

kept everyday jobs and only acted as rabbis when working at the synagogue. About 2,000 years ago rabbis began to speak about the *Talmud*, or oral law. Jews believe the Talmud continues to unfold in every generation, meaning that God's teachings are a continuing revelation. Rabbis work to understand the ongoing revelation of God's laws and adapt them to the modern world.

The Torah's laws direct many aspects of Jewish religious and social life. For instance, the Torah commands all Jews to fast (refrain from eating and drinking) during the holiday of Yom——Kippur, the day of atonement (being sorry for bad acts). The Torah also calls Jews to give alms to the needy to create justice in the

world. The Torah includes the rules of *kashrut*, which outlines what a Jew can eat. Foods a Jew can eat are called *kosher* because they meet the Torah's requirements concerning the clean preparation of food. Food that is not kosher is called *tref*, and includes pork, shellfish, and meat prepared with dairy products. Today, Jews from different sects keep kashrut to varying degrees. The three main sects of Judaism are Orthodox, Conservative, and Reformed. All three have a special reverence for Jerusalem because it is the sacred city of the prophets.

. Torah is the most important part of the TeNarch because it is the

Torah to Moses, Judaism's most important prophet. In addition to



practices such as breaking challah, or Shabbat bread, and sharing wine. On Friday evening and Saturday morning, Jews gather to pray together at a holy building called a synagogue. During the worship service a rabbi, or teacher, leads the congregation in prayers and readings from the TeNaKh. During Saturday's service the rabbi also gives a sermon. Traditionally, rabbis were Torah scholars who also