

1. Which of the following was married to Abraham? [1 mark]

- A) Sarah B) Rachel C) Rebekah D) Miriam

2. State two beliefs about the nature of a covenant. [2 marks]

Made on behalf of all Jews and God/ a permanent agreement/ involves a promise from God to the Jews and the Jews to God.

3. Explain Jewish teaching about the Promised Land. [4 marks]

It was promised to Abraham and his descendants by God as part of the covenant made with Abraham and God. It is the land of Canaan (modern day Palestine/Israel) and surrounding area. Many Jews believe it to be their homeland and encourage all Jews to live there. Some Jews believe the promise to be metaphorical and do not state a claim on the land.

4. Explain two ways that belief in the Covenant with Abraham affects Jews today. [5 marks]

All Jews will be resurrected on the last day and Israel will be restored. Justice will be delivered by God and each Jew will be treated justly according to how he has lived. This is the start of the life to come. *“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.”*

5. 'The covenant with Abraham is irrelevant today.'

[12 marks]

Reasons to agree:

The covenant was made over three thousand years ago in the Middle East> it has no relevance for Jews in 2020. The covenant includes land which is occupied by Palestinians now and therefore it is not right for the Jews to claim it as their own. The idea of descendants of Abraham and following on the agreement made so long ago seems outdated in todays culture> in 2020 it is outdated to make your race or your religion the main source of your identity. Circumcision is only applicable to males> this is sexist. Circumcision for religious reasons is seen by some to be ritual abuse. Reform Jews have adapted Judaism so that it fits with the culture of the time – this is a more appropriate way of viewing the covenant.

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5. 'The covenant with Abraham is irrelevant today.'

[12 marks]

Reasons to disagree:

Covenants are permanent agreements> the covenant was made with God who does not change therefore neither does the agreement.

The promise has been in place for thousands of years and should not be cast aside because culture says that its no longer relevant. Jews are able to trace their heritage back to Abraham and should be proud of that today.

The land was promised by God and so it is right for Jews to live there today – it belongs to them and was promised by God himself> many Jews live in Israel today and think that other Jews should also make Aliyah and move there also. Circumcision is a perfectly harmless practice that many choose for hygiene reasons. It also demonstrates a Jew's faith and commitment to Judaism – these attributes are not irrelevant.

As part of the covenant, Jews are to be “a blessing to the rest of the world”. This is as relevant now as it has ever been.