

## NEED TO KNOW

God has given Jews the **mitzvot** so that they know how to use their God-given **free will** – hence there are rewards and punishments

## UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

- Understand the relationship between free will and mitzvot
- Understand the different types of mitzvot: between humans & God; between humans
- Understand the importance of mitzvot



	<b>Free will</b>	'So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.' Genesis 1:27
<b>FREE WILL &amp; MITZVOT</b>		
Mitzvot between <b>man &amp; God</b> <small>point / explain / example</small>	Mitzvot between <b>man &amp; man</b>	
'Here is the conclusion of the matter. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.' Ecclesiastes 12:7		

## Previously

God **promised** to free the Jewish people from slavery, make them a nation of holy priests and make them his **chosen people**

A **promise** made by humankind to God  
**Humankind would obey the Mitzvot**

A **physical sign** to seal each agreement  
**Keep Shabbat special**



## Previously

**Free will:** Humans are free to choose to do right or to do wrong, this freedom is a gift from God but comes with responsibility.

**Ten Commandments:** Source of authority; religious and moral rules that were given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai

**Mitzvot:** Mitzvot (singular is 'mitzvah') are the 613 Jewish commandments or rules found in the Tenakh

## Teaching...

One way of thinking of the **mitzvot** is as ‘positive’ and ‘negative’ rules:

There are **248 positive mitzvot**, which explain what Jews should do. These rules are known as mitzvot aseh.

There are **365 negative mitzvot**, which explain what Jews should not do. These rules are known as mitzvot ta’aseh.

Alternatively you can divide the **mitzvot** up like this:

Some of the laws are judgements and the reasons for keeping them are obvious, for example “do not kill” these are known as *mishpatim*.

Others are statutes, they are a attest of faith because it could be argued that there is no real reason for them to be followed other than God commanded it: for example, Jews must not wear a garment of wool and linen fabrics together.

## Teaching...

When we think of the word “**command**” it often has negative connotations. But to the Jews, these commandments lead to a blessed life.

“See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse— the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way that I command you today...”

*Deuteronomy 11:26-28*



What is **free will**?



**Ability + responsibly**

# Free will & Mitzvot

Judaism  
Beliefs and Teachings

How can God give **free will** and **mitzvot**?



Jews believe that God had given them free will and the mitzvot – this is not a contradiction. Its about making the right choice.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. I am the LORD your God
2. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

### Mitzvot between man and God

The Mitzvot give guidance on issues such as dietary laws, worship, festivals and rituals.



## TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Mitzvot give guidance on issues such as family life and how to live as a member of their community

These govern our relationship with each other

5. Honour your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal
9. Do not bear false witness
10. Do not envy.