

Noahidism

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Noahidism is a monotheistic Jewish ideology based on the [Seven Laws of Noah](#). According to [Jewish law](#), non-Jews are not obligated to [convert to Judaism](#), but they are required to observe the Seven Laws of Noah. Those who subscribe to the observance of such laws and their supporting organizations are referred to as **Bene Noach** (**B'nei Noah**) ([Hebrew](#): בני נח), **Children of Noah**, **Noahides** or **Noahites**.

Technically, the [Hebrew](#) term *Bene Noach* applies to all non-Jews as descendants of Noah. However, nowadays it is also used to refer specifically to those non-Jews who observe the Noahide Laws.

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[\[edit\]](#) Theological background

According to the [Hebrew Bible](#), all humanity descends from [Noah](#). Noah and his three children [Shem](#), [Ham](#), and [Japheth](#) survived the [Flood](#) aboard the [Ark](#), along with their wives.

Once the survivors were able to leave the ark for dry ground, they started new families and repopulated the earth. When Noah's family left the Ark, God made a [covenant](#) with them. According to the [Talmud](#), this covenant included the Seven Laws of Noah. Thus, to the B'nei Noah, all living humans (except Jews) as descendants of Noah are subject to the Noahide laws.

[Maimonides](#) (Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon, also known as "the Rambam") collected all of the [talmudic](#) and [halakhic](#) decisions in his time, and laid them out clearly in his work the [Mishnah Torah](#); in addition to Jewish laws and their explanations, Noahide Laws were also collected with their explanation in Maimonides' *Sefer Shoftim* ("Book of Judges") in the last section *Hilchot Melachim U'Milchamot* ("The Laws of Kings and Wars") 8:9-10:12, which is available in English online.^[1] Some details of these laws are also found in the [Midrashic](#) literature.^[2]

[\[edit\]](#) The Seven Laws of Noah

Main article: [Seven Laws of Noah](#)

The seven laws listed by the [Tosefta](#) and the [Talmud](#) are^[3]

1. Prohibition of [Idolatry](#): You shall not have any idols before God.
2. Prohibition of [Murder](#): You shall not murder. ([Genesis 9:6](#))
3. Prohibition of [Theft](#): You shall not steal.
4. Prohibition of [Sexual immorality](#): You shall not commit any of a series of sexual prohibitions, which include [adultery](#), [incest](#), anal intercourse between men and [bestiality](#).
5. Prohibition of [Blasphemy](#): You shall not blaspheme God's name.
6. Dietary Law: [Do not eat flesh taken from an animal while it is still alive](#). ([Genesis 9:4](#), as interpreted in the [Talmud \(Sanhedrin 59a\)](#))
7. Requirement to have just [Laws](#): Set up a governing body of law (e.g. Courts)

[\[edit\]](#) Modern movement

A modern movement known as the **B'nei Noah** or **B'nei Noach** has appeared in which members endeavour to follow the Noahide Laws.

Orthodox Judaism does not usually promote [conversion to Judaism](#) but does, on the other hand, believe that the Jewish people have a duty to provide information to those interested in fulfilling the Noahide Laws, based on [Maimonides](#). Some Jewish groups have been particularly active in promoting the Seven Laws, notably the [Chabad-Lubavitch](#) movement (whose late leader, Rabbi [Menachem Mendel Schneerson](#), launched the global [Noahide Campaign](#)), groups affiliated with [Dor Daim](#), and strict students of Maimonides.

Small groups calling themselves the B'nei Noah (children of Noah) have recently organised themselves to form communities to abide by these laws and lead their lives with perceived morality.^[*citation needed*] The [High Council of B'nei Noah](#) is particularly reflective of an apparent success at forming ties with Orthodox Judaism and Observant Noahides.

Some of their organizations include:

[[edit](#)] High Council of B'nei Noah

Main article: [High Council of B'nei Noah](#)

A High Council of B'nei Noah was endorsed on January 10, 2006 by a group established in Israel in 2004 that claims to be 'the [new Sanhedrin](#)'; this Council was set up to represent B'nei Noah communities around the world.^{[4][5]}

[[edit](#)] Acknowledgment of B'nei Noah

Chabad-Lubavitch has been the most politically active in Noahide matters, believing that there is spiritual value for non-Jews in simply acknowledging the seven laws. In 1991 they had a reference to these laws enshrined in a congressional proclamation: Presidential Proclamation 5956,^[6] then-President [George H. W. Bush](#), recalling Joint House Resolution 173, and recalling that the ethical and moral principles of all civilizations come in part from the Seven Noahide Laws, proclaimed March 26, 1991 as "Education Day, U.S.A." Subsequently, Public Law 102-14, formally designated the Lubavitcher Rebbe's birthday as "Education Day, U.S.A.", with Congress recalling that "without these ethical values and principles the edifice of civilization

stands in serious peril of returning to chaos", and that "society is profoundly concerned with the recent weakening of these principles that has resulted in crises that beleaguer and threaten the fabric of civilized society".^[7]

In April 2006, the spiritual leader of the [Druze](#) community in Israel, Sheikh Mowafak Tarif, met with a representative of Chabad-Lubavitch to sign a declaration calling on all non-Jews in Israel to observe the Noahide Laws as laid down in the Bible and expounded upon in Jewish tradition. The mayor of the Galilean city of [Shefa-'Amr](#) (Shfaram) — where Muslim, Christian and [Druze](#) communities live side-by-side — also signed the document.^[8]

In March 2007, Chabad-Lubavitch gathered ambassadors from six different countries to take part in a gathering to declare, in the name of the states they represent, their support of the universal teachings of Noahide Laws. They represented Poland, Latvia, Mexico, Panama, Ghana, and Japan. They were part of a special program organized by Harav Boaz Kali.^[9]

In April, the Abu Gosh mayor Salim Jaber accepted the seven Noahide laws as part of a mass rally by Chabad at the Bloomfield Stadium in Tel Aviv.^[10]

In May, the newly elected president of France, [Nicolas Sarkozy](#), met with a Chabad-Lubavitch rabbi, Dovid Zaoui, who presented him with literature on the universal teachings of the Noahide Laws.^[11]

[\[edit\]](#) In conspiracy theory

The topic of Noahidism has become the subject of (often anti-Semitic, anti-Talmudic and anti-Zionist) conspiracy theories, with allegations that the promotion of the laws is a harbinger of the [New World Order](#) (see also [Judaeo-Masonic conspiracy](#)).^[*citation needed*]

[[edit](#)] See also

- [Judaizers](#)

[[edit](#)] References

1. [^ "Maimonides' Law of Noahides". *WikiNoah*. \[http://en.wikinoah.org/index.php/Maimonides%27_Law_of_Noahides\]\(http://en.wikinoah.org/index.php/Maimonides%27_Law_of_Noahides\).](#)
2. [^](#) Midrash Rabbah
3. [^](#) Tosefta Avodah Zarah 9.4, dated circa 300, quoted in Talmud [Sanhedrin](#) 56a.
4. [^](#) [Sanhedrin Moves to Establish Council For Noahides](#)
5. [^](#) [Arutz Sheva](#)
6. [^](#) ["Presidency"](#). UCSB. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=23514>.
7. [^](#) ["Thomas"](#). LoC. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c102:H.J.RES.104.ENR:>.
8. [^](#) ["Arutzsheva"](#). <http://www.arutzsheva.com/news.php3?id=56379>.
9. [^](#) [Ambassadors Sign 7 Mitzvos Declaration](#)
10. [^](#) [Arab mayor attends Chabad rally - Israel News, Ynetnews](#)
11. [^](#) [French President Sarkozy Discusses Sheva Mitzvos](#)

[[edit](#)] External links

- [Wikinoah: Online resource of history, halacha, publications, and websites concerning Bnei Noah](#)
- [United Noahide Academies — Torah for the Nations](#)
- [OU Radio show on Bnei Noah — The Jew, The Minister and The Bnei Noah](#)
- [Bnei Noach Movement in the Media](#)
- [Magazine Coverage on the 7 Laws of Noah/Bnei Noah — Mishpacha Magazine](#)
- [NoahideNations](#)

[[edit](#)] Noahide communities

- [Noahide community of the United Kingdom](#)
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- [Noahide community of Oklahoma](#)
- [Noahide community of Texas](#)
- [Noahide community of North Virginia](#)
- [New York, NY Center](#)
- [Bnai Noah of Toronto](#)
- [Virtual Bnai Noah Community](#)
- [Informative resource in russian "Toldos Bnei Noah"](#)

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Seven Laws of Noah

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The [Rainbow](#) is the modern symbol of the [Noahide Movement](#), recalling the rainbow that appeared after the [Great Flood](#) of the Bible.

The **Seven Laws of Noah** ([Hebrew](#): שבע מצוות בני נח *Sheva mitzvot B'nei Noach*) form the major part of the **Noachide Laws**, or **Noahide Code**.^[1] This code is a set of moral imperatives that, according to the [Talmud](#), were given by [God](#)^[2] as a binding set of laws for the "children of Noah" - that is, all of [humankind](#).^{[3][4]} According to [Judaism](#), any non-Jew who lives according to these laws is regarded as a [Righteous Gentile](#), and is assured of a place in the [world to come](#) (Olam Haba), the final reward of the righteous.^{[5][6]} Adherents are often called "[B'nei](#)

[Noach](#)" (Children of Noah) or "Noahides" and may often network in Jewish [synagogues](#).

The seven laws listed by the [Tosefta](#) and the [Talmud](#) are^{[7][8]}

1. Prohibition of [Idolatry](#)
2. Prohibition of [Murder](#)
3. Prohibition of [Theft](#)
4. Prohibition of [Sexual immorality](#)
5. Prohibition of [Blasphemy](#)
6. Prohibition of eating flesh taken from an animal while it is still alive
7. Establishment of law courts

The Noachide Laws comprise the six laws which were given to [Adam](#) in the [Garden of Eden](#), according to the Talmud's interpretation of [Gen 2:16](#),^[9] and a seventh one, which was added after the Flood of Noah. Later, at the [Revelation at Sinai](#), the Seven Laws of Noah were re-given to humanity and embedded in the 613 Laws given to the Children of Israel along with the [Ten Commandments](#), which are part of, and not separate from, the [613 mitzvot](#). These laws are mentioned in the [Torah](#). According to Judaism, the 613 mitzvot or "commandments" given in the written Torah, as well as their reasonings in the [oral Torah](#), were only issued to the Jews and are therefore binding only upon them, having inherited the obligation from their ancestors. At the same time, at [Mount Sinai](#), the Children of Israel were given the obligation to teach other nations the embedded Noachide Laws^[citation needed]. These laws also affect Jewish law in a number of ways.

While some Jewish organizations, such as [Chabad](#) have worked to promote the acceptance of Noahide laws, there are no figures for how many actually do.

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[\[edit\]](#) Background

According to Judaism, as expressed in the [Talmud](#), the **Noahide Laws** apply to all humanity through humankind's descent from one paternal ancestor, the head of the only family

to survive [The Flood](#), who in Hebrew tradition is called [Noah](#). In Judaism, [בְּנֵי נֹחַ](#) *B'nei Noah* ([Hebrew](#), "Descendants of Noah", "Children of Noah") refers to all of humankind.^[10] The Talmud also states: "Righteous people of all nations have a share in the world to come" (Sanhedrin 105a). Any non-Jew who lives according to these laws is regarded as one of "the righteous among the gentiles". [Maimonides](#) writes that this refers to those who have acquired knowledge of God and act in accordance with the Noachide laws out of obedience to God. According to what scholars consider to be the most accurate texts of the [Mishneh Torah](#), Maimonides goes on to say that anyone who upholds the Noachide laws only because they appear logical is not one of the "*righteous* among the nations," but rather he is one of the *wise* among them. The more prolific versions of the Mishneh Torah say of such a person: "..nor is he one of the wise among them."^[11]

According to the Biblical narrative, the [Deluge](#) covered the whole world, killing every surface-dwelling creature except Noah, his wife, his sons and their wives, sea creatures, and the animals taken aboard [Noah's Ark](#). After the flood, God sealed a [covenant with Noah](#) with the following admonitions ([Genesis 9](#)):

- Food: "However, flesh with its life-blood [in it] you shall not eat." (9:4)
- Murder: "Furthermore, I will demand your blood, for [the taking of] your lives, I shall demand it [even] from any wild animal. From man too, I will demand of each person's brother the blood of man. He who spills the blood of man, by man his blood shall be spilt; for in the image of God He made man." (9:5-6)

The Talmud states that the instruction not to eat "flesh with the life" was given to Noah, and that [Adam and Eve](#) had already received six other commandments. Adam and Eve were not enjoined from eating from a living animal; they were forbidden to eat any animal. The remaining six are exegetically derived from the sentence "And the Lord God commanded the man saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat." in [Gen 2:16](#).^[12]

Historically, some rabbinic opinions consider non-Jews not only not obligated to adhere to all the laws of the Torah, but are actually forbidden to observe them.^[13] The Noachide Laws are regarded as the way through which non-Jews can have a direct and meaningful relationship with God, or at least comply with the minimal requisites of civilization and of [divine law](#).^[citation needed]

A non-Jew who occupies himself with the study of the Noachide Laws is said to be like Israel's own [Kohen Gadol](#) (high priest).^[14] [Maimonides](#) states, in [Mishneh Torah](#)^[15] that a non-Jew who is precise in the observance of these seven Noachide commandments is considered to be a *Righteous Gentile* and has earned a place in the world to come. This follows a similar statement in the Talmud.^[16]

Noachide law differs radically from [Roman law](#) for gentiles (*Jus Gentium*), if only because the latter was enforceable judicial policy. Rabbinic Judaism has never adjudicated any cases under Noachide law (per Novak, 1983:28ff.), although scholars disagree about whether Noachide law is a functional part of [Halakha](#) ("Jewish law") (cf. Bleich).

In recent years, the term "Noahide" has come to refer to non-Jews who strive to live in accord with the seven Noachide Laws; the terms "observant Noahide" or "Torah-centered Noahides" would be more precise but are infrequently used. Support for the use of Noahide in this sense can be found with the [Ritva](#), who uses the term *Son of Noah* to refer to a Gentile who keeps the seven laws, but is not a [Ger Toshav](#).^[17] The [rainbow](#), referring to the Noachide or First [Covenant](#) ([Genesis](#) 9), is the symbol of many organized Noahide groups, following [Genesis 9:12-17](#). A non-Jewish person of any ethnicity or religion is referred to as a *bat* ("daughter") or *ben* ("son") of Noah, but most organizations that call themselves בני נח (*b'nei noach*) are composed of gentiles who are keeping the Noachide Laws.^[citation needed]

[\[edit\]](#) Early parallels

[\[edit\]](#) 2nd Century BCE, Book of Jubilees

An early reference to *Noachide Law* may appear in the [Book of Jubilees](#) 7:20-28, which is generally dated to the 2nd century BCE:

"And in the twenty-eighth [jubilee](#) [1324-1372 [A.M.](#)] Noah began to enjoin upon his sons' sons the ordinances and commandments, and all the judgments that he knew, and he exhorted his sons to observe [righteousness](#), and to cover the shame of their flesh, and to [bless their Creator](#), and honour father and mother, and [love their neighbour](#), and guard their souls from [fornication](#) and [uncleanness](#) and all iniquity. For owing to these three things came the flood upon the earth ...

For whoso sheddeth man's blood, and whoso eateth the [blood of any flesh](#), shall all be destroyed from the earth."^[18]

This is [R. H. Charles'](#) 1913 translation from the [Koine Greek](#), but *Jubilees* is also extant in [Geez](#) and multiple texts found at [Qumran](#) which are still being examined.

[\[edit\]](#) 1st Century CE, Acts 15

Main article: [Council of Jerusalem](#)

The [Jewish Encyclopedia](#) article on [Saul of Tarsus](#) states:

According to Acts, Paul began working along the traditional Jewish line of proselytizing in the various synagogues where the [proselytes of the gate](#) [a biblical term, for example see [Exodus 20:9](#)] and the Jews met; and only because he failed to win the Jews to his views, encountering strong opposition and [persecution from them](#), did he turn to the Gentile world after he had agreed at a convention with the apostles at Jerusalem to admit the Gentiles into the Church only as proselytes of the gate, that is, after their acceptance of the Noachian laws ([Acts 15:1–31](#)).

[Jewish Encyclopedia: New Testament — Spirit of Jewish Proselytism in Christianity](#) states:

For great as was the success of [Barnabas](#) and Paul in the heathen world, the authorities in Jerusalem insisted upon [circumcision](#) as the condition of admission of members into the church, until, on the initiative of Peter, and of James, the head of the Jerusalem church, it was agreed that

acceptance of the Noachian Laws — namely, regarding avoidance of idolatry, fornication, and the eating of flesh cut from a living animal — should be demanded of the heathen desirous of entering the Church.

Some modern scholars however dispute the connection between Acts 15 and Noahide Law^[19] and the [Historical reliability of the Acts of the Apostles](#) and the nature of [Biblical law in Christianity](#).

[[edit](#)] Subdividing the Seven Laws

Various [rabbinic sources](#) have different positions on the way the seven laws are to be subdivided in categories. Maimonides^[20] lists other additional Noahide commandments, including the coupling of different kinds of animals and the grafting of different species (as defined by Jewish law) of trees. Rabbi [David ben Solomon ibn Abi Zimra](#) (*Radbaz*), a contemporary commentator on Maimonides, expressed surprise that he left out castration and sorcery which were listed in the Talmud.^[21]

The 10th century Rabbi [Saadia Gaon](#) added [tithes](#) and [levirate marriage](#). The 11th century Rav [Nissim Gaon](#) included "listening to God's Voice", "knowing God" and "serving God" besides going on to say that all religious acts which can be understood through human reasoning are obligatory upon Jew and Gentile alike. The 14th century Rabbi [Nissim ben Reuben Gerondi](#) added the commandment of [charity](#).

The 16th century work *Asarah Maamarot* by Rabbi [Menahem Azariah of Fano](#) (*Rema mi-Fano*) enumerates thirty commandments, listing the latter twenty-three as extensions of

the original seven, which includes prohibitions on various forms of [sorcery](#), as well as [incest](#) and [bestiality](#). Another commentator, Rabbi [Zvi Hirsch Chajes](#) (*Kol Hidushei Maharitz Chayess* I, end Ch. 10) suggests these are not related to the first seven, nor based on Scripture, but were passed down by oral tradition. The number thirty derives from the statement of the Talmudic sage [Ulla](#) in tractate Hullin 92a, though he lists only three other rules in addition to the original seven, consisting of details of the prohibitions against homosexuality and cannibalism, as well as the imperative to honor the Torah.

Talmud commentator [Rashi](#) remarks on this that he does not know the other Commandments that are referred to. Though the authorities seem to take it for granted that Ulla's thirty commandments included the original seven, an additional thirty laws is also possible from the reading^{[[citation needed](#)]}.

The 10th century [Shmuel ben Hophni Gaon](#) lists thirty Noahide Commandments based on Ulla's Talmudic statement, though the text is problematic.^{[[22](#)]} He includes the prohibitions against suicide and false oaths, as well as the imperatives related to prayer, sacrifices and honoring one's parents.

The contemporary Rabbi Aaron Lichtenstein counts 66 instructions^{[[citation needed](#)]} but Rabbi Harvey Falk has suggested that much work remains to be done in order to properly identify all of the Noahide Commandments, their divisions and subdivisions.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

Theft, robbery and stealing covers the appropriate understanding of other persons, their property and their rights. The establishment of courts of justice promotes the value of the

responsibility of a corporate society of people to enforce these laws and define these terms. The refusal to engage in unnecessary lust or cruelty demonstrates respect for the [creation](#) itself as renewed after the Flood. The prohibition against committing [murder](#) includes a prohibition against [human sacrifice](#).^{[[citation needed](#)]}

[Maimonides](#), in his [Mishnah Torah](#), interpreted the prohibition against homicide as including a prohibition against [abortion](#).^{[[23](#)]}

[[edit](#)] Legal status of an observer of Noahide Laws

Main article: [Ger toshav](#)

From the perspective of traditional [halakhah](#), if a non-Jew is to be accepted to live among the Jewish people in the [Land of Israel](#), then that person must keep the Noahide Laws, and a number of additional laws and regulations apply as well. Such a person is called a *[Ger Toshav](#)*, a "Sojourning Alien" amid the people of Israel. A Ger Toshav is the only kind of non-Jew who Jewish law permits to live among the Jewish people in the [Land of Israel](#) when the land is run according to [Halacha](#) and there is a Sanhedrin and a Temple.^{[[citation needed](#)]} [Jewish law](#) only allows the official acceptance of a Ger Toshav as a sojourner in the Land of Israel during a time when the [Year of Jubilee](#) (*yovel*) is in effect.^{[[24](#)]}

There are several differences in Jewish law between a Ger Toshav and a regular Gentile. Although the Jewish community does not formally accept Gerei Toshav at the present time, there is discussion in Halakic sources as to whether some of the laws

that apply to a Ger Toshav may be applied to some modern Gentiles, particularly Muslims.^[25]

A Ger Toshav should not be confused with a [Ger Tzedek](#), who is a person who prefers to proceed to total [conversion to Judaism](#), a procedure that is traditionally only allowed to take place only after much thought and deliberation over converting.

[\[edit\]](#) Modern Times

[\[edit\]](#) Modern views

Some modern views hold that penalties are a detail of the Noahide Laws and that Noahides themselves must determine the details of their own laws for themselves. According to this school of thought - see N. Rakover, *Law and the Noahides* (1998); M. Dallen, *The Rainbow Covenant* (2003)- the Noahide Laws offer mankind a set of absolute values and a framework for righteousness and justice, while the detailed laws that are currently on the books of the world's states and nations are presumptively valid.

[\[edit\]](#) Chabad views: A Shulchan Aruch for Gentiles

After the late Rebbe of [Chabad](#) Lubavitch Rabbi [Menachem Mendel Schneerson](#) started his famous [Noahide Campaign](#) in the 1980s, the number of Gentiles, willing to keep the Seven Laws of Noah as described in the Torah is increasing continuously. A codification of the exact obligations of the Gentiles in the spirit of the classical Shulchan Aruch was needed. In 2005 the scholar Rabbi Moshe Weiner of Jerusalem accepted to produce an in-depth codification of the Noahide precepts.^[26] The work is called

[Sefer Sheva Mitzvot HaShem](#), published 2008/ 2009. As it is approved by both Chief Rabbis of Israel, Rabbi [Shlomo Moshe Amar](#) and Rabbi [Yonah Metzger](#), as well as other [Hasidic](#)- and non-Hasidic halachic authorities like Rabbi [Zalman Nechemia Goldberg](#), Rabbi [Gedalia Dov Schwartz](#) and Rabbi Jacob Immanuel Schochet, it has an authoritative character and is referred as a "[Shulchan Aruch](#)"^[27] for Gentiles at many places.

[\[edit\]](#) Public endorsement of Noahide Laws

[\[edit\]](#) United States Congress

The Seven Laws of Noah were recognized by the [United States Congress](#) in the preamble to the 1978 bill that established [Education Day](#) in honor of the birthday of [Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson](#), the leader of the [Chabad-Lubavitch](#) movement:

Whereas Congress recognizes the historical tradition of ethical values and principles which are the basis of civilized society and upon which our great Nation was founded; Whereas these ethical values and principles have been the bedrock of society from the dawn of civilization, when they were known as the Seven Noahide Laws.^[28]

[\[edit\]](#) Israeli Druze

In January 2004, the spiritual leader of the [Druze](#) community in [Israel](#), [Sheikh Mowafak Tarif](#), signed a declaration calling on all non-Jews in Israel to observe the Noahide Laws as laid down in the [Talmud](#) and expounded upon in Jewish tradition. The mayor of the [Galilean](#) city of [Shefa-'Amr](#) (Shfaram), where Muslim,

Christian and Druze communities live side by side, also signed the document. The declaration includes the commitment to make a better, more humane world based on the Seven Noahide Commandments and the values they represent commanded by the Creator to all mankind through Moses on [Mount Sinai](#).

Support for the spread of the Seven Noahide Commandments by the Druze leaders reflects the Biblical narrative itself. The Druze community reveres the non-Jewish father-in-law of Moses, [Jethro](#), whom Arabs call [Shoaib](#). According to the Biblical narrative, Jethro joined and assisted the Jewish people in the desert during the [Exodus](#), accepted monotheism, but ultimately rejoined his own people. In fact, the tomb of Jethro in [Tiberias](#) is the most important religious site for the Druze community.^[29]

[\[edit\]](#) Christianity and the Noahide Laws

See also: [Natural law](#) and [Biblical law in Christianity](#)

18th-century Rabbi [Jacob Emden](#) proposed that Jesus, and Paul after him, intended to convert the Gentiles to the Noahide laws while allowing the Jews to follow full [Mosaic Law](#).^[30]

[\[edit\]](#) See also

- [List of ancient legal codes](#)
- [Code of Hammurabi](#)
- [Noahidism](#)
- [Conversion to Judaism](#)
- [Natural law](#)

[\[edit\]](#) References

1. [^] [That the Noachide code may include more than the seven laws](#), see Talmud Bavli, [Sanhedrin](#) 58b - 59a; also see Rabbi [Yosef Karo](#), Kesef Mishna, explaining [Maimonides, Mishneh Torah](#), Hilkhoh M'lakhim 10:9, as well as Encyclopedia Talmudit (Hebrew edition, Israel, 5741/1981, Entry *Ben Noah*), for both this opinion (various places) and for an indication (page 350) that there are views that all of the Noachide code can be subsumed under the seven laws
2. [^] According to Encyclopedia Talmudit (Hebrew edition, Israel, 5741/1981, Entry *Ben Noah*, page 349), most [medieval authorities](#) consider that all seven commandments were given to [Adam](#), although [Maimonides \(Mishneh Torah, Hilkhoh M'lakhim 9:1\)](#) considers the dietary law to have been given to Noah.
3. [^] Encyclopedia Talmudit (Hebrew edition, Israel, 5741/1981, entry *Ben Noah*, introduction) states that after the giving of the [Torah](#), the Jewish people were no longer in the category of the sons of Noah; however, Maimonides (Mishneh Torah, Hilkhoh M'lakhim 9:1) indicates that the seven laws are also part of the Torah, and the Talmud (Bavli, [Sanhedrin](#) 59a, see also Tosafot ad. loc.) states that Jews are obligated in all things that Gentiles are obligated in, albeit with some differences in the details.
4. [^] Compare [Genesis 9:4-6](#).
5. [^] [Mishneh Torah](#), Hilkhoh M'lakhim 8:14
6. [^] Encyclopedia Talmudit (Hebrew edition, Israel, 5741/1981, entry *Ben Noah*, end of article); note the variant reading of Maimonides and the references in the footnote
7. [^] Tosefta Avodah Zarah 9.4, dated circa 300, quoted in Talmud [Sanhedrin](#) 56a.
8. [^] [Noachide.org - The seven Colors of the Rainbow](#)

9. [^ 56a/b](#)
10. [^](#) Encyclopedia Talmudit, Hebrew edition, Israel, 5741/1981, entry Ben Noah, introduction
11. [^](#) [Mishnah Torah](#) *Shoftim, Laws of Kings and their wars* 8:14
12. [^](#) [Sanhedrin 56a/b](#), quoting [Tosefta](#) Avodah Zarah 9:4; see also Rashi on Genesis 9:3
13. [^](#) [Gentiles May Not Be Taught the Torah.](#)
14. [^](#) Talmud, Bava Kamma 38a
15. [^](#) *The Laws of Kings* 8:11,
16. [^](#) Sanhedrin 105b
17. [^](#) Encyclopedia Talmudit, Hebrew edition, 5741/1981, Appendix, entry Ben Noah, introduction
18. [^](#) [Jubilees at wesley.nnu.edu](#), [Jewish Encyclopedia: Jubilees, Book of: The Noachian Laws](#)
19. [^](#) [Joseph Fitzmyer](#), *The Acts of the Apostles (The Anchor Yale Bible Commentaries)*, Yale University Press (December 2, 1998), [ISBN 0-300-13982-9](#), chapter V
20. [^](#) Mishneh Torah, Laws of Kings 10:6
21. [^](#) Sanhedrin 56b.
22. [^](#) Each surviving manuscript is defective between the seventeenth and nineteenth positions, cf. The Seven Laws of Noah by Rabbi Aaron Lichtenstein, pp. 119
23. [^](#) [Mishnah Torah](#) *Shoftim, Laws of Kings and their wars* 9:6
24. [^](#) Encyclopedia Talmudit, Hebrew edition, 5739/1979, entry Get Toshav
25. [^](#) Encyclopedia Talmudit, Hebrew edition, 5739/1979, entry Get Toshav

26. [^](#) *The Divine Code*, R. Moshe Weiner, Ed. Dr. Michael Schulman Ph.D., Vol, I., p. 21, 2008, publ. Ask Noah International
27. [^](#) *Letter of Blessing (for Sefer Sheva Mitzvoth HaShem)* , R. Yonah Metzger, Chief Rabbi of Israel, p.1.
28. [^](#) [\[1\]](#), 102nd Congress of the United States of America, March 5, 1991.
29. [^](#) ["Druze Religious Leader Commits to Noachide "Seven Laws"".](#) 2004-01-18.
<http://www.arutzsheva.com/news.php3?id=56379>.
Retrieved 2009-06-02.
30. [^](#) [Jewish Encyclopedia: Gentile: Gentiles May Not Be Taught the Torah](#): "R. Emden (), in a remarkable apology for Christianity contained in his appendix to "Seder 'Olam" (pp. 32b–34b, Hamburg, 1752), gives it as his opinion that the original intention of Jesus, and especially of Paul, was to convert only the Gentiles to the seven moral laws of Noah and to let the Jews follow the [Mosaic law](#); this explains the apparent contradictions in the New Testament regarding the [laws of Moses](#) and the [Sabbath](#)."

[\[edit\]](#) Further reading

- Barre Elisheva. "Torah for Gentiles - the Messianic and Political Implications of the Bnei Noah Laws", 2008, [ISBN 978-965-91329-0-4](#)
- [Bleich, J. David](#). "Judaism and [natural law](#)" in *Jewish law annual*, vol. VII 5-42
- Bleich, J. David. "Tikkun Olam: Jewish Obligations to Non-Jewish Society" in: *Tikkun olam: social responsibility in Jewish thought and law*. Edited by David Shatz, Chaim

- I. Waxman and Nathan J. Diament. Northvale, N.J.: [Jason Aronson](#), 1997. [ISBN 0-7657-5951-9](#).
- Broyde, Michael J. "The Obligation of Jews to Seek Observance of Noahide Laws by Gentiles: A Theoretical Review" in *Tikkun olam: social responsibility in Jewish thought and law*. Edited by David Shatz, Chaim I. Waxman and Nathan J. Diament. Northvale, N.J. : Jason Aronson, 1997. [ISBN 0-7657-5951-9](#).
 - Cecil, Alan W. "The Noahide Code: A Guide to the Perplexed Christian." (Aventura: Academy of Shem Press, 2006). [ISBN 0-9779885-0-3](#).
 - Cowen, Shimon Dovid. "Perspectives on the Noahide Laws - Universal ethics". The Institute of Judaism and Civilization (3rd edition) 2008 [ISBN 0 9585933 8 8](#)
www.ijc.com.au
 - Clorfene C and Rogalsky Y. *The Path of the Righteous Gentile: An Introduction to the Seven Laws of the Children of Noah*. Targum Press, 1987. [ISBN 0-87306-433-X](#).
[Online version](#).
 - Lichtenstein, Aaron. "The Seven Laws of Noah". New York: The Rabbi Jacob Joseph School Press and Z. Berman Books, 2d ed. 1986. Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 80-69121.
 - [Novak, David](#). *The image of the non-Jew in Judaism: an historical and constructive study of the Noahide Laws*. New York : E. Mellen Press, 1983.
 - Novak, David. *Natural law in Judaism*. Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 1998.
 - Rakover, Nahum. *Law and the Noahides: law as a universal value*. Jerusalem: Library of Jewish Law, 1998.

- Michael Dallen. The Rainbow Covenant: Torah and the Seven Universal Laws [ISBN 0-9719388-2-2](#) Library of Congress Control Number 2003102494 [online excerpts](#)

[\[edit\]](#) External links

- [Institute of Noahide Code:](#)
- [Academy of Shem: Educational resources for Noahides](#)
- [Jewish Encyclopedia: Laws, Noachian](#)
- [Wikinoah: Online resource of history, halacha, publications, and websites concerning Bnei Noah](#)
- [Detailed explanations of the Noahide Laws for Beginners](#)

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