

Reconstructionist Judaism was developed by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan in the 1920's and 30's acknowledging modern **western scientific thought**, to thrive in the New World of American Democracy:

[[to present **Judaism as a Civilization**, "**Judaism is the evolving religious civilization of the Jewish people.**" [social sciences, evolution]

[[recognizing the **human authorship** of all holy writ, **[[Scripture comes from numerous authors, times, and places.]]** [bible criticism, anthropology]

[[with consequent **questioning** of miracles, revelations, commandments, etc.; **Supernatural events, gods, miracles, revelations are the stuff of myth, legends, stories.,**]] [bible criticism, archeology]

[[rejecting the **Chosenness** of the Jewish people.]] [bible criticism]

[[considering the **divine as a process** not a human-type entity; ****"God is the power that makes for fulfillment.. " refrain from anthropomorphic terms and references** [{"power" used here as in Physics: the capacity to act or do work. Thesaurus play goes: power → force → energy**.

Makes for → creates; salvation → fulfillment in this world]] [physical sciences]

[[and rejecting **Divine Kingship, royal hierarchy, aristocracy.** [political science]

Reconstructing Judaism, as we are now called, stresses ideas of:

democracy, freedom, self-reliance; obligations, responsibilities

[[and rejecting ideas such as Divine Kingship **Aristocracy, kingship, royalty, not meaningful in USA.**]]

participation, the power of group energy, the importance of Jewish peoplehood; **[[Belonging comes before behaving and believing.]]**

equality, [[and the Chosenness of the Jewish people. **The Chosen People concept is rejected.**]] **Lets try a few thousand years of connection instead of separation.** [[gender, racial, sexual, lay-clergy]]

and the pursuit of fulfillment. ****"God is the power that makes for salvation" i.e., Our energy and capacity to act for fulfillment in this world are natural processes in the universe, not the work of a supernatural human-type entity.]**

BUZZWORDS

The past has a vote, but not a veto.

Don't say it if you don't mean it.

Our purpose is to live our one life to its fullest and richest in this world, sharing whatever we can of connection, joy, goodness, love, beauty, truth.]] The **meaning of life** is found in living while we are alive, enjoying our time, sharing the gifts, etc. etc. ET