

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis named *Fundamental Milestones of Life in Judaism* deals, as the title of the diploma thesis suggests with the main transitional rituals in Judaism in terms of religious studies such as birth, bar / bat mitzvah, wedding and death as all these milestones are very important in the life of every Orthodox Jew or Jewess because each of these transitions means for them a certain position in the world, that means, that they know and realize their position in the world. One of the aim of this thesis is to characterize and describe these particular and specific milestones of Jewish life and also, the diploma thesis depicts their history and their development over time. To the beginning, we will describe the history of the Jews, because without this context, life in Judaism, as the Jews live, is really hard to understand. This chapter is followed by the characteristics of Judaism as a religion and then the thesis will focus on the transition rituals themselves and their importance for life in Judaism. The description of these key moments in a Jew's life should then lead to an understanding of the meaning of life as perceived by the Jews themselves.