

**The Hebrews and Judaism**

Module 7

**Lesson 1****MAIN IDEAS**

1. Abraham led the Hebrews to Canaan and to a new religion, and Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.
2. Strong kings united the Israelites to fight off invaders.
3. Invaders conquered and ruled the Israelites after their kingdom broke apart.
4. Some women in Israelite society made great contributions to their history.

**Key Terms and People****Judaism** the religion of the Hebrews**Abraham** the biblical father of the Hebrew people**Moses** Hebrew leader who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt**Exodus** the journey the Israelites made from Egypt to Canaan, led by Moses**Ten Commandments** moral code of laws that God handed down to Moses**David** former shepherd who became king after the death of Saul, Israel's first king**Solomon** David's son; became king of the Israelites**Diaspora** the dispersal of the Jews outside of Israel and Judah**Lesson Summary****ABRAHAM AND MOSES LEAD THEIR PEOPLE**

A people called the Hebrews (HEE-brooz) appeared in Southwest Asia sometime between 2000 and 1500 BC. Their writings describe the laws of their religion, **Judaism** (joo-dee-i-zuhm). The Hebrew Bible, or Torah, traces the Hebrews back to a man named **Abraham**. The Hebrew Bible says that God told Abraham to leave his home. God promised to lead him to a new land and to make his children into a mighty nation. Abraham moved to Canaan (KAY-nuhn) where the Hebrews lived for many years.

Some of Abraham's descendents, the Israelites, later moved to Egypt. In time, Egypt's ruler, the pharaoh, made them slaves. In the 1200s BC, God told a leader named **Moses** to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses went to the pharaoh and demanded that the Israelites be freed.

Circle the name of the people who appeared in Southwest Asia sometime between 2000 and 1500 BC.

Underline the promise that God made to Abraham. Where did Abraham move?

Lesson 1, *continued*

The pharaoh agreed only after a series of plagues, or disasters, struck Egypt.

Moses led his people on a journey called the **Exodus**. The Israelites believed that they had been set free because God was watching over them. The Bible says that during this journey, God gave Moses two stone tablets with laws written on them. They were known as the **Ten Commandments**. According to them, the Israelites were to worship only one God and were to value human life, self-control, and justice. After 40 years in exile, the Israelites reached Canaan.

Why was Moses an important Israelite leader?

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What three basic values are emphasized in the Ten Commandments?

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**KINGS UNITE THE ISRAELITES**

**Saul**, after fighting the Philistines (FI-li-steenz), became the first king of Israel. After he died, a former shepherd named **David** became king. David was well-loved. He defeated the Philistines and other enemies. He captured the city of Jerusalem. It became Israel's new capital. David's son **Solomon** (SAHL-uh-muhn) became the next king around 965 BC. He was a strong king. He built a great temple in Jerusalem. It became the center of the Israelites' religious life.

Circle the names of the first three kings of Israel. Which king built a temple?

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**INVADERS CONQUER AND RULE**

Soon after Solomon's death in 930 BC, Israel split into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah (JOO-duh). The people of Judah were known as Jews. Over the centuries, the Jewish people were often conquered and enslaved. Jerusalem was conquered by the Greeks during the 330s BC. Judah regained independence for a time, but was conquered again in 63 BC, this time by the Romans. The dispersal of the Jews outside of Israel and Judah is known as the **Diaspora**.

Lesson 1, *continued*

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**WOMEN IN ISRAELITE SOCIETY**

Although men dominated Israelite society, some Israelite and Jewish women made great contributions to the culture.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Make Inferences** Write a set of ten commandments that reflects the responsibilities and rights of students and faculty for your school.

**DIRECTIONS** Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. After King Saul died, \_\_\_\_\_ became the new king of Israel. **(David/Solomon)**
2. \_\_\_\_\_ led the Israelites out of Egypt, which freed them from slavery under the pharaoh. **(Moses/Abraham)**
3. The \_\_\_\_\_, a code of moral laws, has helped shape the development of Israelite and Jewish society over time. **(Judaism/Ten Commandments)**
4. The Hebrews trace their ancestry back to a man named \_\_\_\_\_. **(Abraham/David)**

**DIRECTIONS** Write three adjectives or a descriptive phrase to describe the term or person.

5. Diaspora \_\_\_\_\_
6. Exodus \_\_\_\_\_
7. Judaism \_\_\_\_\_
8. Solomon \_\_\_\_\_
9. Ten Commandments \_\_\_\_\_