

AIM: How were Hebrew religious beliefs unique in the ancient world?



DO NOW:



1. **DEFINE:** monotheism

2. **WHO ARE THE HEBREW PEOPLE?**

SECTION 1 QUESTIONS

1. Where did the Hebrew people originally live? _____
2. How did the Hebrew people come to believe in ONE GOD? _____

3. What were the Hebrew people searching for between the years of 2000 BCE to 1000-900 BCE?

4. Why do you think Palestine (modern-day Israel) came to be known as *The Promised Land* by the Hebrew people? (Read the timeline and analyze the route taken along the map!)

SECTION 2 QUESTIONS

1. Who was Moses? _____
2. What are the Ten Commandments? _____

3. What does the First Commandment prove about Judaism? _____
4. What did the floods and droughts of early history lead the Hebrew people to believe?

5. What does this prove about GEOGRAPHY? _____
6. Why were the Jews enslaved by the Ancient Egyptians? _____

SECTION 3 QUESTIONS

1. What are the Ten Commandments? _____

2. Commandments 1 through 4 address the relationship between people and _____.
Commandments 6 through 10 address the relationship between people and _____.
3. Name the holy books for Judaism: _____ and _____
4. How does the Ten Commandments impact the lives of its followers? _____

SECTION 4 QUESTIONS

1. Why were the Hebrew people looked down upon by many ancient civilizations?

2. DEFINE: Diaspora: _____
3. How did Jews maintain their identity after being *persecuted (mistreated)* and forced out of their homeland? _____
4. Explain 4 examples that demonstrate how the Jewish people continue to remember their history as a people.
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
(4) _____

EXIT QUESTIONS:

How were Hebrew religious beliefs unique in the ancient world?

Which aspect of Hebrew history was depicted in the video clip, *Pharaoh, Pharaoh*.

1. Hebrew Text:
"Honor your father and mother...
You shall not murder...
You shall not steal..."

These selections show that ancient civilizations who developed these concepts placed an emphasis on
A) law B) anarchy C) trade D) architecture
2. Judaism, Islam & Christianity are similar in that they ask their followers to share a belief in
A) teachings of the Quran (Koran)
B) an ethical code of conduct & monotheism
C) papal supremacy
D) reincarnation & the Four Noble Truths

SECTION 1

The Hebrew (Jewish) people used to occupy the Fertile Crescent in Mesopotamia. After several floods and droughts destroyed their crops, they came to believe that ONE God was controlling their history.

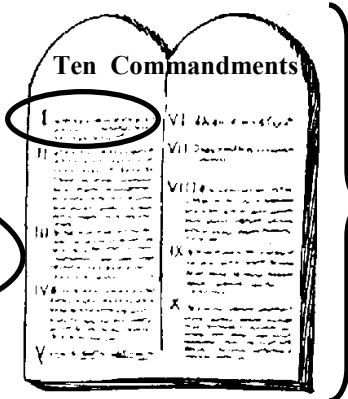
<p>2000 BCE Hebrew people migrate to Canaan (modern-day Israel) to find better farmland</p>	<p>1800 BCE A great famine forces the Hebrews to migrate to Egypt where they will eventually become enslaved by the pharaohs.</p>	<p>1200 BCE Moses leads the Hebrew people out of slavery to wander the Sinai Peninsula in search their home.</p>	<p>1000-900 BCE A Jewish nation is created in Palestine (modern day Israel). It is believed by the Jews to be their "Promised Land."</p>
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SECTION 2



1. *I am the Lord your God... You shall have no other gods besides me.*



The Ten Commandments are the ten orders or laws given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. They are followed by both the Jews and the Christians.



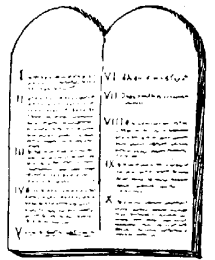
Moses (above) was a prophet believed by the Jews to have spoken directly to God.

Since the time of the great floods and droughts that led the Jews to migrate from their home in search of better farmland, they have believed that history and religion were interconnected. These Hebrew beliefs evolved into the religion we know today as Judaism. Judaism differed in fundamental ways from beliefs of many nearby peoples, especially the Egyptians.

Ancient Egypt was a theocracy ruled by a pharaoh, or god-king. Pharaohs were human beings worshipped as gods by their polytheistic followers. When the Jewish people came to Egypt they were enslaved by the pharaoh for refusing to believe in any other god but their **ONE LORD**, God. Moses helped the Jews to escape from slavery and re-establish their homeland.



SECTION 3



The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments are the ten orders or laws given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. These orders serve as ethical codes of conduct for both the Jews and the Christians.

1. *I am the Lord your God... You shall have no other gods besides me.*
2. *You shall not worship any false images. (i.e., statues, sculptures)*
3. *You shall not use the Lord's name in vein.*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.*
5. *Honor your father and your mother.*
6. *You shall not kill.*
7. *You shall not commit adultery.*
8. *You shall not steal.*
9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
10. *You shall not covet (be jealous of) your neighbor's possessions.*

HOLY BOOKS:

Torah (most sacred writing)
Talmud (Jewish laws & ethics)

****These texts provide their followers with ethical codes of conduct.****

SECTION 4

Hebrews were forced to leave their homeland on more than one occasion. First, geographic reasons influenced their decision to leave. Then, ruling empires, like Egypt and later Rome, proved to be intolerant of a different belief system.

During the time of Ancient Egypt, Hebrews were looked down upon because their monotheistic beliefs differed so greatly from the rest of the polytheistic ancient peoples. While the early civilizations were turning to god-kings, gods and goddesses and other protector gods, the *Jews believed in an all-knowing, all-powerful God who was present everywhere.*

In 70 A.D., the Ancient Romans forced the Jews out of their home to eliminate the conflict that was developing between Jews and other groups of people. This DIASPORA, or *spreading out of people*, sent Jews to different parts of the world in search of security. Wherever they settled, Jews maintained their identity by living in close-knit communities and obeying religious laws and traditions.

EXAMPLES OF THEIR RELIGIOUS PRACTICES INCLUDE:



PASSOVER

The Bible tells that while the Hebrews were en-slaved in Egypt God would kill all of the firstborn. The Hebrews were instructed to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a spring lamb and, upon seeing this, the spirit of the Lord passed over



HANUKKAH

The "Festival of Lights" is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.



ROSH HASHANA

Jewish New Year



YOM KIPPUR

The Day of Atonement is the holiest day of the year for religious Jews. It involves fasting and intense prayer.