

Quaestio: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE ISRAELITES AND THE ROOTS OF JUDAISM

## DISCLAIMER: RELIGION AS HISTORY

- As historians, we study religion in terms of:
  - Beliefs and Practices
  - Origin and Development
  - Influence on History
- As historians, we neither affirm nor deny the existence of gods, miracles, or divine revelation because they are beyond the scope of historical inquiry

## ORIGINS OF JUDAISM

- The Jewish religion originated with a people called the \_\_\_\_\_, nomadic \_\_\_\_\_ who settled in \_\_\_\_\_ Crescent between 2000 and 1500 BCE
- The main source for the history of the Hebrews is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Judaism, the \_\_\_\_\_, a collection of religious texts compiled over many centuries and finished around 100 CE
- The Hebrew Bible is generally NOT a \_\_\_\_\_ source, as it was written later about past events
- Outside the Bible, there are only a \_\_\_\_\_ historical sources that support the Biblical history
- Historians today debate over how much of the \_\_\_\_\_ story can be considered \_\_\_\_\_

## MONOTHEISM

- **Monotheism**, the belief in only \_\_\_\_\_, set the Hebrews apart from their \_\_\_\_\_ neighbors in the Ancient World
- The name for God in Hebrew is \_\_\_\_\_, which means “The Always Existing One”
- Proto-Monotheism outside Judaism
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Religion created by Pharaoh \_\_\_\_\_, worship of only Aten, the Sun Disc, over all other gods, but may still have believed in other gods
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Persian religion, founded by \_\_\_\_\_, which taught belief in supreme god of good, \_\_\_\_\_, but may have given equal power to a god of evil, Ahriman

## TRADITIONAL NARRATIVE – THE COVENANT

- Jews believe that a man named \_\_\_\_\_, who lived in Mesopotamia, was chosen by God to be a \_\_\_\_\_, someone who speaks to God and preaches God’s message to others.
- God instructed Abraham to leave his home and made a \_\_\_\_\_, or agreement, with Abraham: as long as Abraham obeyed God’s commands, God would bless him and his descendants and give them the land of \_\_\_\_\_ (in the Southern Levant) as a new home.

- Like other peoples of the \_\_\_\_\_, Abraham's grandson \_\_\_\_\_ and his twelve sons migrated to New Kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ to escape famine in Canaan. Jacob was also known by the name \_\_\_\_\_, so his descendants were called the \_\_\_\_\_.

## TRADITIONAL NARRATIVE – THE EXODUS

- As their population in Egypt grew, the \_\_\_\_\_ saw the Israelites as a threat and enslaved them. Jews believe that a new prophet named \_\_\_\_\_ was chosen to free the Israelites.
- With God's help, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, a migration known as the \_\_\_\_\_, celebrated by Jews today during the holiday \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Israelites wandered the desert for 40 years before returning to \_\_\_\_\_. During this time, God \_\_\_\_\_ and taught him the \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrew for "Instruction").
- This included the \_\_\_\_\_ **Commandments**, the first being that **no god be worshipped except Yahweh**.
- Some of the Israelites disobeyed \_\_\_\_\_ by praying to an Egyptian bull god instead of God, but they \_\_\_\_\_ for their sins and God forgave them.
- The holiday of \_\_\_\_\_, the Day of Atonement, is based on this story.

## TRADITIONAL NARRATIVE – KINGDOM AND CONQUEST

- The Israelites \_\_\_\_\_ with other Canaanites for the land and eventually created the Kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ in the 900s BCE. The two most famous kings from the tradition were also seen as prophets: \_\_\_\_\_, who made the holy city of \_\_\_\_\_ his capital, and his son \_\_\_\_\_, who built the First \_\_\_\_\_ of Jerusalem, where priests made sacrifices to Yahweh.
- However, the short-lived kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ into the larger Northern Kingdom of Israel and the smaller Southern Kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_, who were later called \_\_\_\_\_.
- The powerful \_\_\_\_\_ Empire conquered the Middle East, including the Northern Kingdom of Israel, in 772 BCE and kicked many of the Israelites out of the land.
- In 586 BCE, the \_\_\_\_\_ (aka Neo-Babylonians) conquered the Kingdom of Judah, \_\_\_\_\_ the Temple and taking thousands of Jews to \_\_\_\_\_ to uproot them from their history.
- About 50 years later, the Persians under King \_\_\_\_\_ conquered the region, and because of their religious \_\_\_\_\_, they allowed the Jews to \_\_\_\_\_ to Judah and begin rebuilding the Temple.
- According to Jewish tradition, the \_\_\_\_\_ as given to Moses is recorded as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Hebrew Bible, which historians believe was written down during this period.