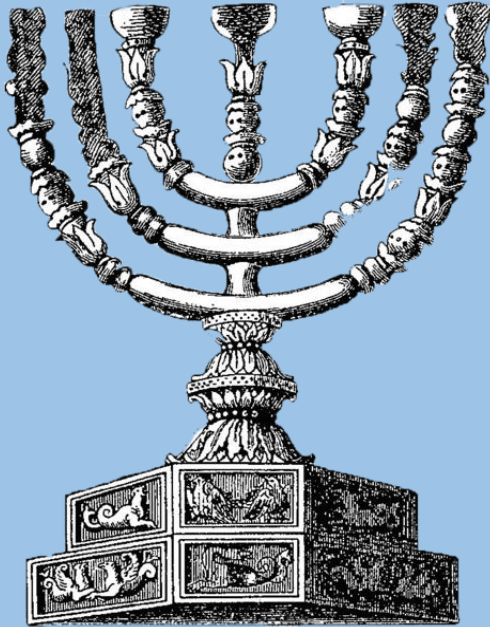


Aim: What were the historical circumstances and geographic context for the founding of Judaism?

Do Now: What are the major beliefs of Judaism?



# Judaism

- the world's oldest monotheistic religion which was the basis for both Christianity and Islam

# Major Beliefs of Judaism

- **Monotheism** – belief in one God
- **Torah** - first five books of the Hebrew Bible
- **Moses** – prophet who, according to the Torah, was given the Ten Commandments around 2000 BCE
- **Ten Commandments** - the moral code of Judaism and Christianity
- **The Covenant** - A formal agreement between two or more people; in the Torah The Covenant refers to an agreement between God and the Ancient Israelites.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2jnvsdF38k>

# Ancient Israel

- an area described in the Torah that stretched from Egypt to Mesopotamia, but many archaeologists now believe that it was a small state rather than an empire.

# Geographic context for the founding of Judaism

- Middle East
  - a region in Western Asia that includes parts of northern Africa and borders the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea and Arabian Sea. Europe, Asia, & Africa meet.
  - Ancient Canaan – settled by the Ancient Israelites
    - Land promised to the Israelites by God in Torah
    - Cultural Crossroads
    - Between the Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea

# Ancient Israelites

- a group of people who lived in the kingdom of Israel in the Middle East starting around 1030 BCE-1020 BCE until it was conquered by the Assyrian empire in 722 BCE. The Israelites were the first people to practice a religion that became known as Judaism.
- Hebrew -the language of ancient Israelites and now the official language of Israel

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tK2Kw0Qagww>



# Major Figures of Judaism

## Abraham

- Father of Judaism
- Life story is told in the book of Genesis in the Hebrew Bible
- God made a covenant with Abraham promising to bless him with descendants “like the sands of the sea” and a nation for him and the Israelites



Depiction of Abraham circa 1180 by Herrad von Landsberg



Moses with the Tablets of the Law. Rembrandt, 1695.

## Moses

- Life story told in the Torah
- Freed the Israelite slaves from Egypt
- God gave Moses the Ten Commandments
- Many Jewish people believe he wrote the Torah

# The Story of Moses

- After 100 years of living in Canaan, there was a drought. This led the Israelites to Egypt.
- The pharaoh enslaved Israelites and ordered all baby boys killed.
- In order to save him, Moses' mother sent him in a basket down river. The pharaoh's daughter found him and raised him as Egyptian royalty.
- One day, Moses found a burning bush and heard God's voice instructing him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to freedom.
- God sent 10 plagues to trouble Egypt. This convinced the pharaoh to let the Israelites go.
- On the way back to Canaan, Moses went to the top of Mount Sinai and received the Torah. In the Torah were the 10 commandments.



# Babylonian Exile

- (597-539 BCE) the period of time when Babylonian Empire, led by King Nebuchadnezzar II, conquered Judah and ordered all Jewish people to leave Jerusalem and live in captivity in Babylon.

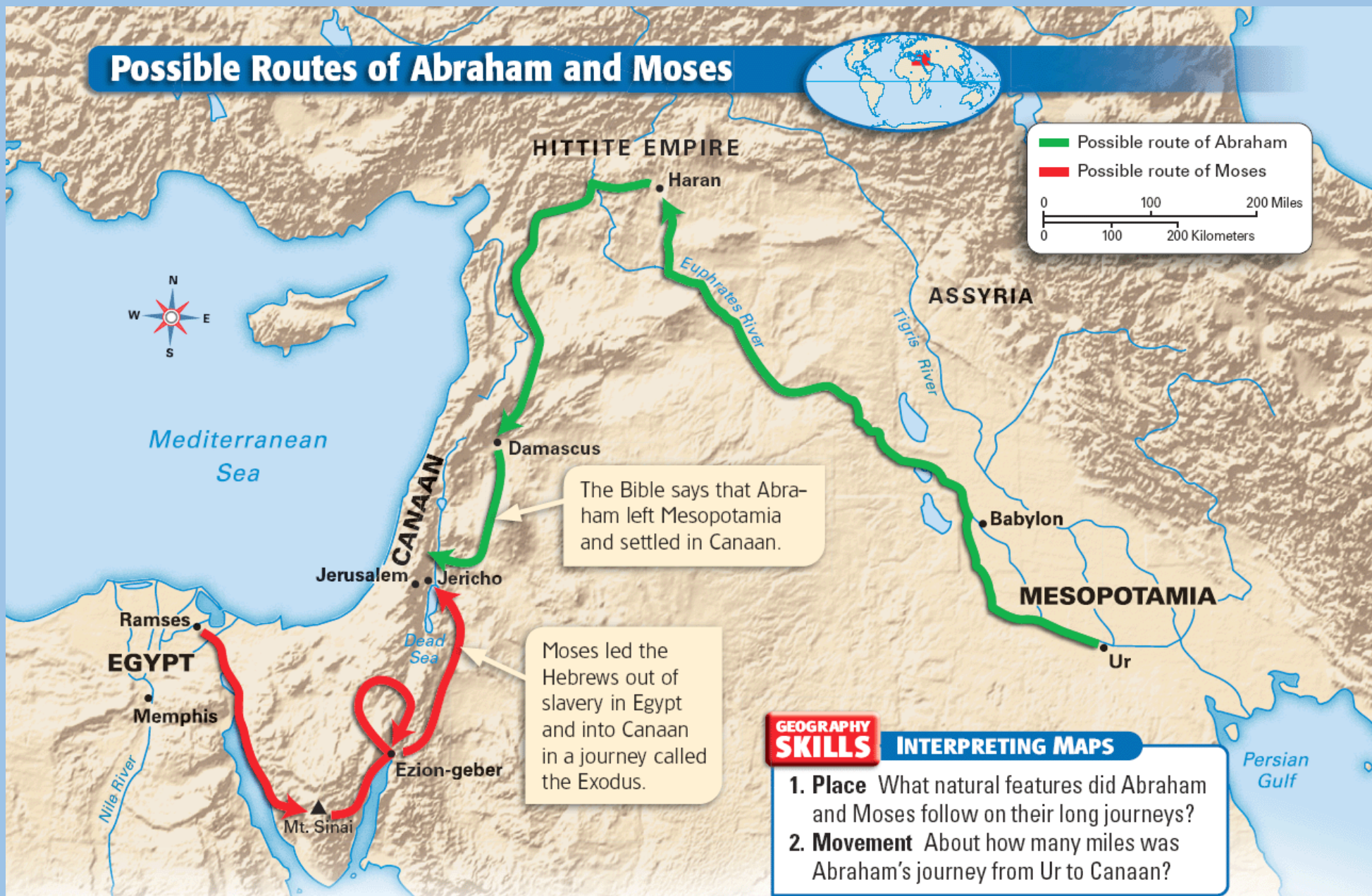
# Judah (Judea)

- Southern Kingdom of ancient Israel

# How did Judaism spread?

- **Diaspora**

- the spreading out of a group of people from the place where they originally came from



Possible Routes of Abraham and Moses





# The Greeks

- In 334 B.C.E. Alexander the Great of Macedonia set out to conquer western Asia. He defeated the Persians but allowed Jews to stay in Judah.
- Diaspora or “scattering” of Jews occurred.
- These scattered Jews learned much of Greek culture and helped copy the Hebrew Bible into Greek. As a result, Jewish ideas spread into the Mediterranean world.



# The Jewish Way of Life

- Rules for daily life:
  - Provide for the poor
  - Visit the sick
  - Do good deeds
  - Give to charity
  - Apply just laws to rich and poor alike
  - Self control
- Sons carried on the family name and headed the household.
- Boys learned how to make an income and taught them the Torah. Girls learned how to be good wives, mothers and housekeepers.
- Jews could not eat pork, shellfish or smooth-skinned fish.
- Kosher- Animals that are killed in a certain way, inspected, salted, and soaked. Jews must also not eat milk products with meat products.