

The Early Hebrews





In this photo, hundreds of people pray at the Western Wall, the holiest site in the world of Judaism. This picture contains a large group of Jewish people. It appears to be mostly men. They all have some type of covering on their head. There is a wall in the far background. Credit: © Paul A. Souders/Corbis

The Jewish People

Chapter 8 Time Line

CHAPTER EVENTS

c. 2000 BC
Abraham leaves Mesopotamia.

2000 BC

c. 1750 BC
Hammurabi issues his law code.

c. 1200 BC
Moses leads the Hebrews out of Egypt during the Exodus.

1475 BC



c. 1240–1224 BC
Ramses the Great rules Egypt.



950 BC

586 BC
The Jews are enslaved in Babylon.



425 BC

c. 563 BC
The Buddha is born in India.



AD 70
The Romans destroy the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

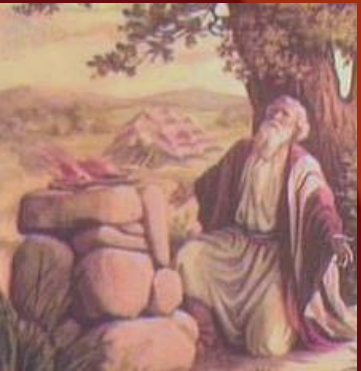
AD 100



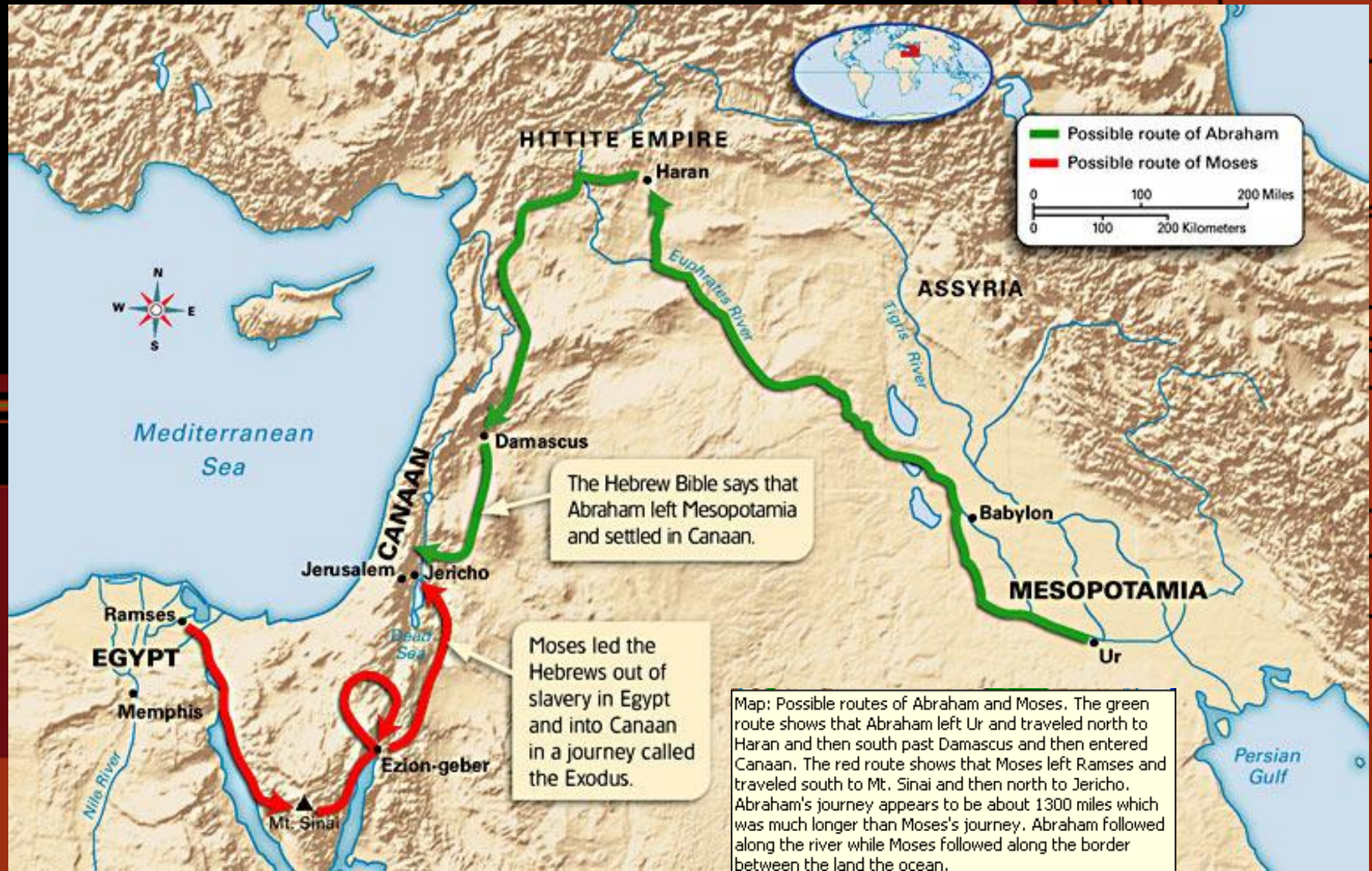
27 BC
Augustus becomes the first Roman emperor.

Abraham

- A people called the Hebrews appeared in Southwest Asia sometime between 2000 and 1500 BC.
- Their writings describe the laws of their religion, **Judaism**.
- The Hebrew Bible, or Torah, traces the Hebrews back to a man named **Abraham**.
- The 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. The Hebrews lived there for many years.



Possible Routes of Abraham and Moses



Moses



- Some Hebrews later moved to Egypt.
- In time Egypt's ruler, the pharaoh, made them slaves.
- In the 1200s BC, God then told a man named **Moses** to demand the Hebrews' freedom.
- The pharaoh agreed only after a series of plagues struck Egypt.

Exodus

- Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt in a journey called the **Exodus**.
- The Bible says that during this journey, God gave Moses two stone tablets with laws written on them, known as the **Ten Commandments**.
- The Hebrews were to worship only God and to value human life, self-control, and justice.
- The Hebrews reached Canaan after 40 years. They became the Israelites.





I am the Lord thy God

Thou shalt have no
other gods before
me

Thou shalt not make unto
thee any graven image

Thou shalt not take
the name of the lord
thy God in vain

Remember the sabbath
day, to keep it holy

Honor thy father and
thy mother

Thou shalt not kill

Thou shalt not commit
adultery

Thou shalt not steal

Thou shalt not bear
false witness

Thou shalt not covet

The Ten Commandments

Kings Unite the Israelites



- A man named Saul fought the Philistines and became the first king of Israel.
- After Saul died a former outlaw named **David** became king. David was well-loved. He defeated the Philistines and other Jewish enemies. He captured the city of Jerusalem. It became Israel's new capital.
- David's son **Solomon** became king next around 965 BC. Solomon was a strong king. He built a great temple in Jerusalem.

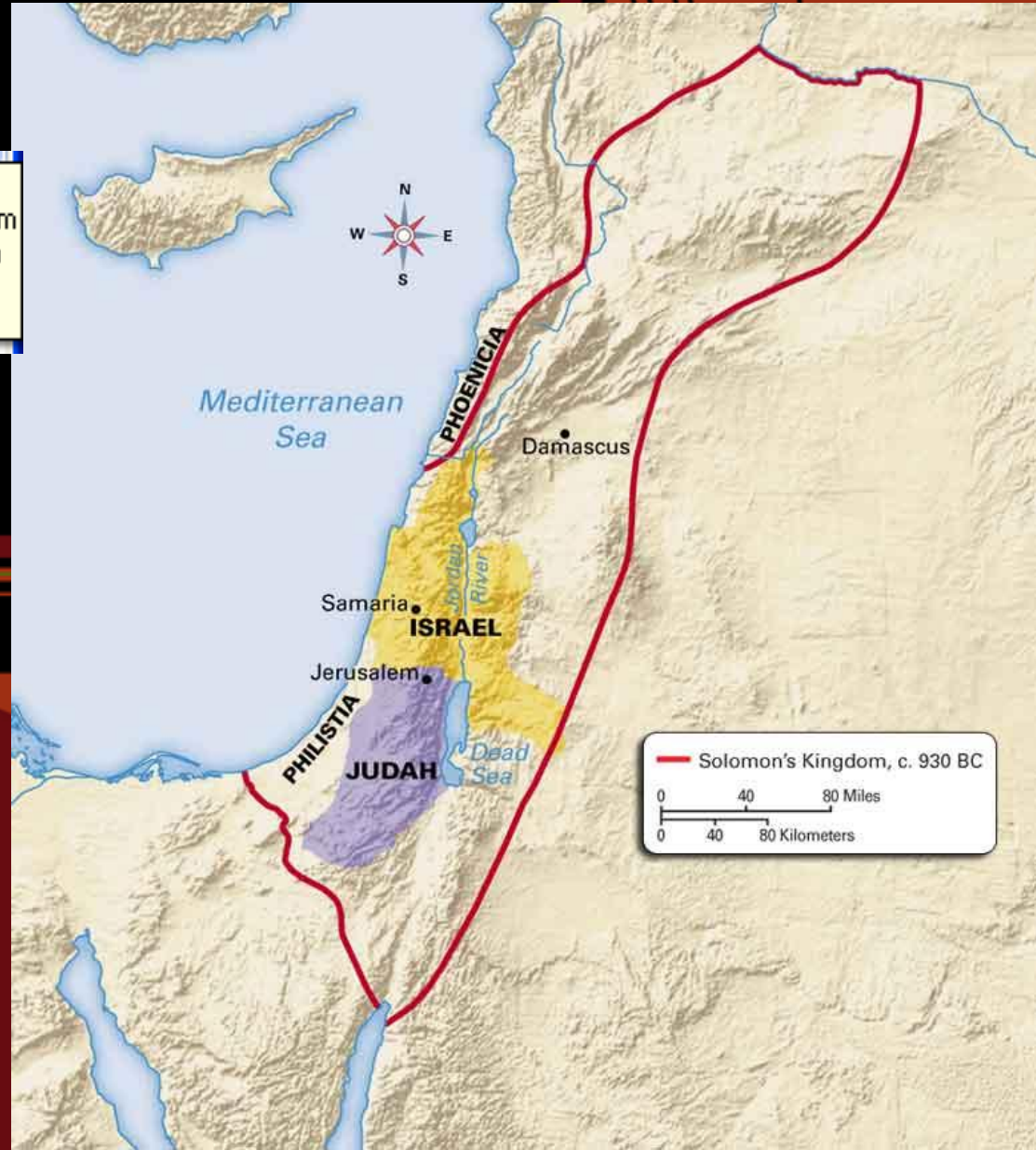
Invaders Conquer and Rule

- Soon after Solomon's death in 930 BC, Israel split into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah
- The people of Judah were known as Jews. Over the centuries the Jewish people were often conquered and enslaved.

Kingdoms of Israel and Judah

920 BC

Map: Kingdoms of Israel and Judah, c. 920 BC Solomon's kingdom ran along the Mediterranean Sea. It extended from about 100 miles north of Damascus to about 80 miles south of Judah. Israel and Judah's kingdoms together were only about 160 miles long.



Invaders Conquer and Rule

- The scattering of the Jews outside Canaan is known as the **Diaspora**. 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.

Women In Hebrew Society

- Men dominated Hebrew society, but some Hebrew women made great contributions to the culture.

Ruth and Naomi

The story of Ruth and Naomi comes from the Book of Ruth, one of the books of the Hebrew Bible. According to this account, Ruth was not a Hebrew, though her husband was. After he died, Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, resettled in Israel.

Inspired by Naomi's faith in God, Ruth joined Naomi's family and adopted her beliefs. She dedicated her life to supporting Naomi.

