

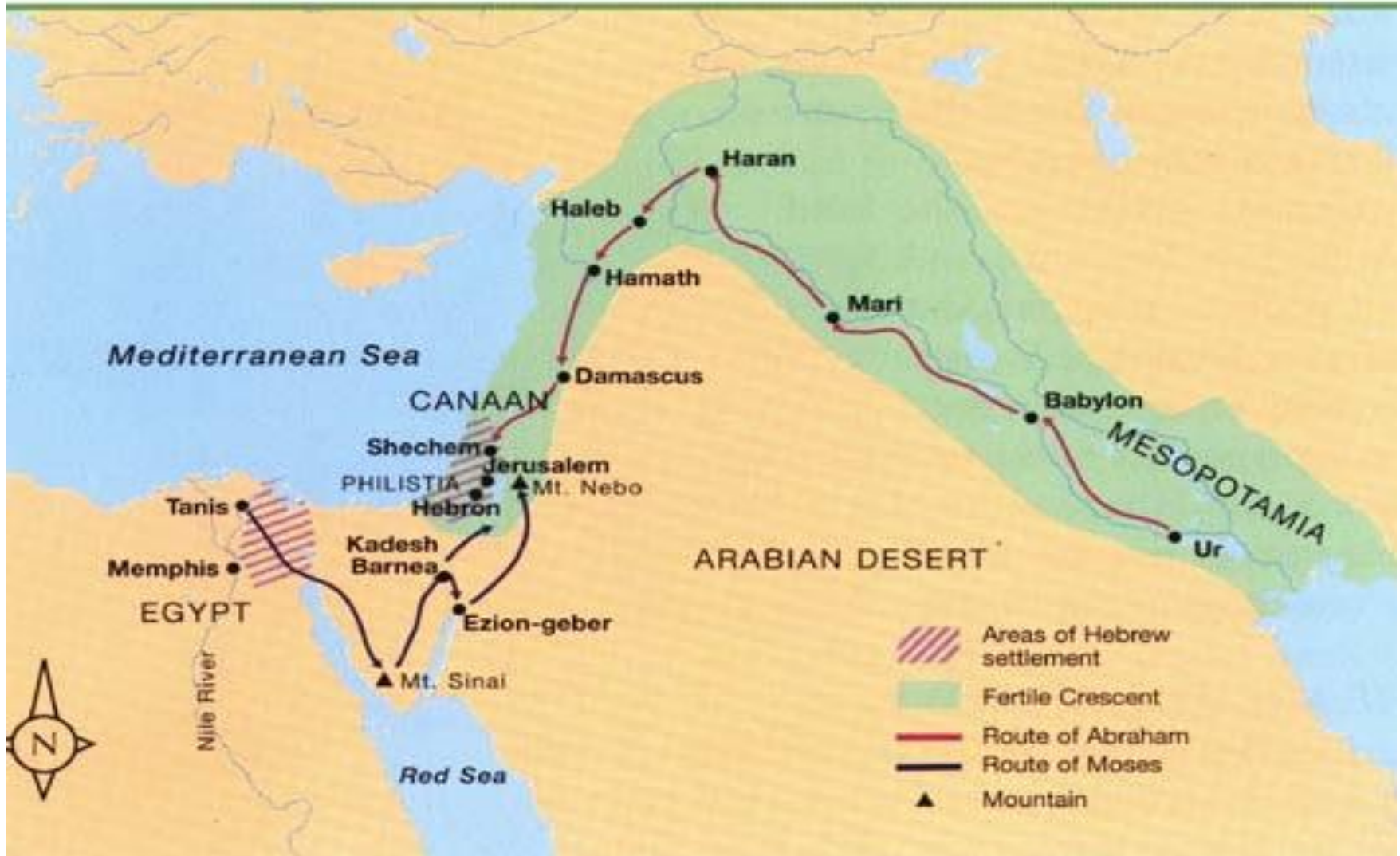


T 7: Hebrew and Phoenician Civilizations

Origin of the Hebrews

- **Hebrews** – Semitic micro-society from Mesopotamia (Ur in Sumer) – migrated to Palestine (**Canaan**) and Egypt between 1900-1500 BCE
- Originated from the family of **Abraham**
- Became known as **Israelites** – from ‘**Israel**’ (‘Soldier of God’) - alternative name of Abraham’s grandson **Jacob**
- Enslaved in Egypt during the New Kingdom

PATH OF THE ANCIENT HEBREWS

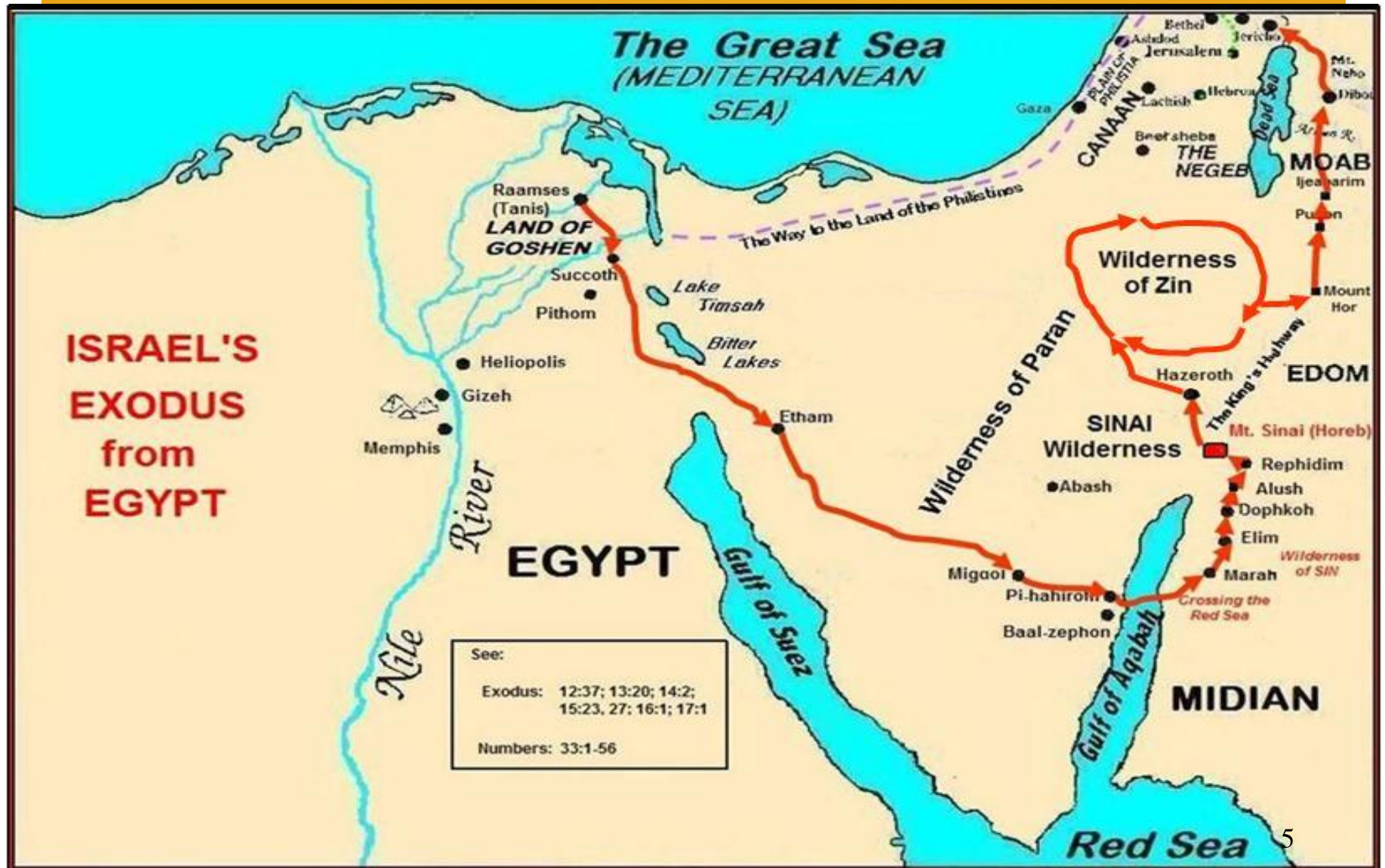


Abrahams journey to Canaan
His people from Canaan to Egypt

Political development of Hebrews

- Exodus led by Moses (1250 BCE)
- Fighting against Canaanites
- Invasion of Philistines (1050 BCE)
- United under King Saul to face internal and external challenges
- Kingdom of Israel under David centered Jerusalem c. 1000 – 960 BCE in present day Israel – succeeded by his son Solomon (c. 960 – 930) – followed by decline and division

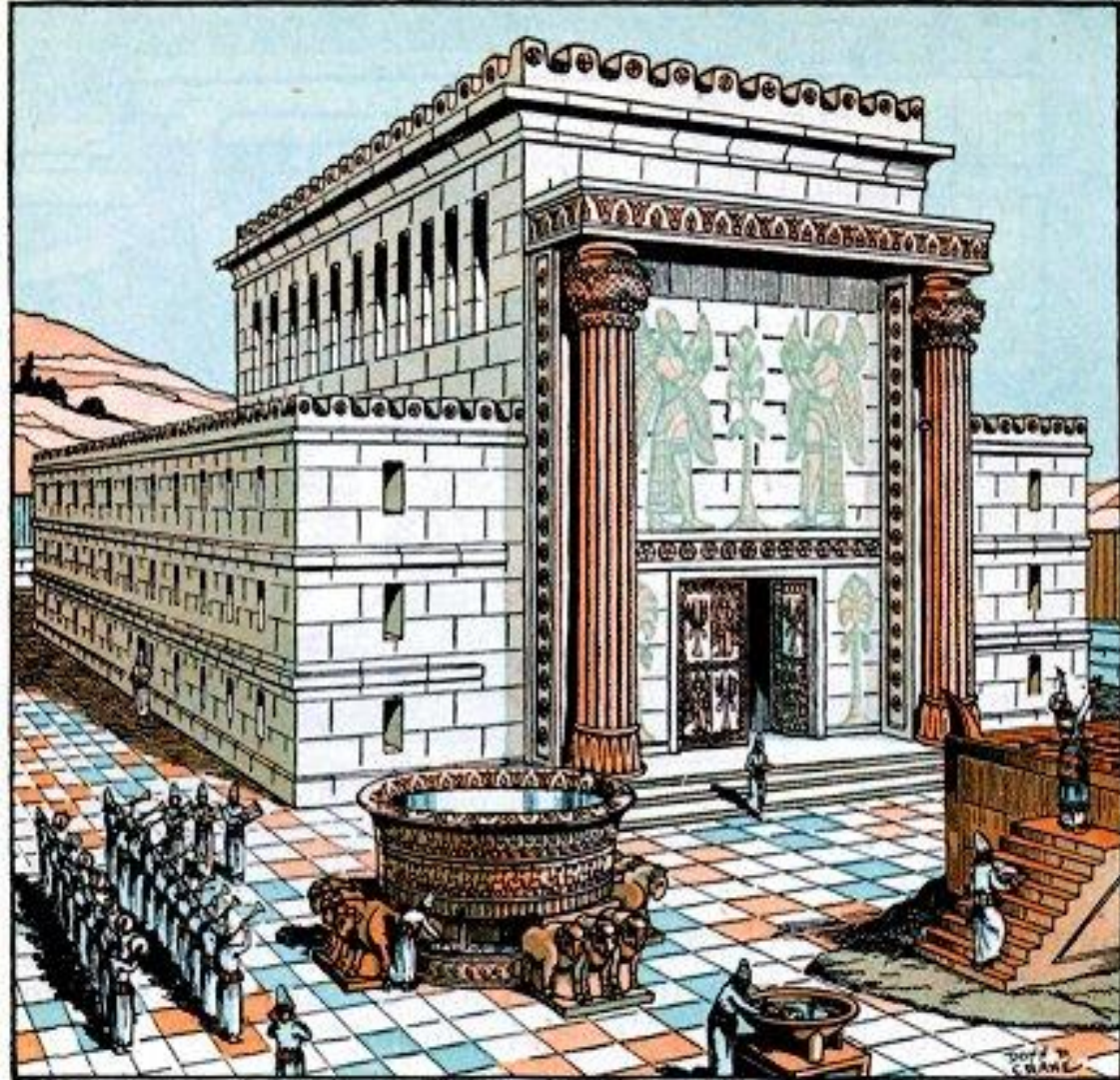
Exodus from Egypt



Building identity



Star of David



Solomon's Temple⁶

Babylonian captivity

Deportation of Jews from Palestine to Babylon
By king Nebuchadnezzar (c. 597 BCE)



Political development of Hebrews (cont)

- Released by Cyrus the Great in 539 BCE
- Lived under Persian rule until conquered by Alexander the Great in 332 BCE
- Roman occupation of Palestine in 63 BCE – failed revolt in 66 CE
- Roman Emperor Titus suppress the revolt mercilessly in 70 CE
- Spread all over the Roman Empire – started returning back to Palestine after the state of Israel was formed in 1948

Hebrew religion

- One of the oldest monotheistic religions – from *Henotheism* to *Monotheism* – later known as **Judaism**
- Belief in one God – *Yahweh* (Jehovah)
- Founded by prophet **Moses** about 3500 years ago
- Laws governing all aspects of life compiled in the *Torah* (Old Testament) - a contract between the *Yahweh* and his people (Israelites)

Legacy

Far reaching impact of the Hebrew culture and religion:

- Carried by the Jewish people to faraway places
- Influence on Christianity and Islam – the first of the three Abrahamic religions

The Phoenicians

- Highly enterprising people – lived in modern day Lebanon
- Small **city states** on the coastal areas - ideal location for trade and commerce - Travelled to faraway lands like Morocco and Spain
- Huge forests of massive **cedar** trees – good material for building ships
- Exported timber, dyed cloth, wine, textiles etc.

Cedar tree



Contributions

- Innovation of **alphabet**-based writing system (from Cuneiform) – necessity of keeping business transaction records – 22 letters (without vowels) – made writing and reading much easier – facilitated communication as well as trade and commerce different nations
- Set an example of developed urban life in the Mediterranean region

Phoenician – Greek – Roman alphabets

PHOENICIAN		GREEK/ROMAN	
ALEPH	𐤀	ALPHA	Α α
BETH	𐤁	BETA	Β β
GIMEL	𐤂	GAMMA	Γ γ
DALETH	𐤃	DELTA	Δ δ
HE	𐤄	EPSILON	Ε ε
VAV	𐤅		Ϝ ϝ
			Ϟ ϟ
HETH	𐤆	ETA	Η η
TETH	𐤇	THETA	Θ θ
YOD	𐤈	IOTA	Ι ι
KAPH	𐤉	KAPPA	Κ κ
LAMED	𐤊	LAMBDA	Λ λ
MEM	𐤋	MU	Μ μ
NUN	𐤌	NU	Ν ν
SAMEK	𐤍	XI	Ξ ξ

PHOENICIAN		GREEK/ROMAN	
AYIN	𐤎	OMICRON	Ο ο
PE	𐤏	PI	Π π
SADE	𐤐		
KOPH	𐤑		Ϟ ϟ
RESH	𐤒	RHO	Ρ ϱ
SHIN	𐤓	SIGMA	Σ σ
TAW	𐤔	TAU	Τ τ
		UPSILON	Υ υ
		PHI	Φ φ
		CHI	Χ χ
		PSI	Ψ ψ
			Υ υ
ZAYIN	𐤕	ZETA	Ζ ζ
		OMEGA	Ω ω

Study questions

- Who were the Hebrews?
- Why did the Hebrews travel all the way to Egypt?
- What is the “Exodus”?
- What does the “Babylonian Captivity” mean?
- How did the Hebrew religion emerge?
- Who were the Phoenicians?
- What was the main contribution of the Phoenicians to world civilization?
- What motivated the Phoenicians to innovate a simplified writing system with alphabets?

Thank You