

Chapter 10

The Hebrew Kingdoms

Before You Read: Predicting

Scan the title of the chapter and the lesson titles. Write three questions you think might be answered in the chapter. One example is

What were the origins of the Hebrew people?

As you find the answers to your questions as you read, write them in your notebook.

Big Ideas About the Hebrew Kingdoms

Belief Systems Belief systems and religions may shape government and societies.

Although the ancient Hebrews were a small group of people, their impact on world history has been great. The Hebrews have contributed to civilizations across Europe, Asia, and the Americas. The beliefs of the Hebrew people have been important in the development of religion and law in Western civilization.



Integrated Technology

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INTERNET RESOURCES

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AFRICA

- Assyrian Empire, 650 B.C.
- Babylonian Empire, 600 B.C.

SOUTHWEST
ASIA

WORLD

1800 B.C.

Abraham and his family leave Ur on their way to Canaan. (Russian icon showing Abraham and Sara) ▶



c. 1250 B.C.

Moses leads Hebrews out of Egypt.

1200 B.C.

1200 B.C.

Olmec civilization emerges in southeast Mexico. (Olmec jade head) ▶



Southwest Asia, 700–600 B.C.

INTERACTIVE

0 200 400 miles
0 200 400 kilometers



586 B.C.

Babylonians capture Jerusalem and destroy Solomon's Temple.

A.D. 70

Romans under Titus destroy Herod's temple in Jerusalem. (bust of Titus) ▶



600 B.C.

300 B.C.

B.C. A.D.

A.D. 300

771 B.C.

Nomads in China sack the Zhou capital and murder the monarch.

500 B.C.

Zapotecs found Monte Albán. (Zapotec urn from Monte Albán in Mexico) ▶



A.D. 300

Aksum kingdom emerges in East Africa.

Ruth and Naomi

Background: The Hebrews settled throughout parts of what are now Israel and Lebanon. Their laws, religious customs, and beliefs were different from those of other peoples in that region. However, Hebrews and other groups sometimes learned to understand each other.

One example of this understanding is the Hebrew Bible story of Ruth and Naomi. Naomi, with her husband and sons, had left Israel and moved to Moab, a land east of the Dead Sea in present-day Jordan. Naomi's sons married women from Moab, including Ruth. Ruth, who was not a Hebrew, was an ancestor of King David of Israel.





Naomi, her husband, and their sons had come to live in Moab many years ago. They fled a famine in their native land. Once settled in Moab, one of the sons married Ruth, a woman of Moab. In this way, they all became one family.

Now Ruth's husband, father-in-law, and brother-in-law have all died. Ruth's mother-in-law, Naomi, tells her that she is going back to Israel. Ruth tells Naomi that she will go with her. Naomi is touched by Ruth's loyalty but thinks she should reconsider.

Naomi urges Ruth to stay in Moab, where Ruth will find a new husband among her own people. Ruth knows that the Hebrews have a different faith. They do not make statues of gods. They worship only one God.

Ruth thinks about the love and friendship she has for Naomi. She thinks about her dead husband, Naomi's son. Ruth thinks about which group of people, both of whom she loves, she will choose to live with. Then Ruth says to Naomi, "Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God."

When Naomi returns to Israel, Ruth goes with her out of loyalty to Naomi and her family. Later, Ruth marries a Hebrew and declares that she will worship his God. One of their descendants is David, the second king of Israel. David, one of the greatest figures in the history of the Hebrews, represents the coming together of different peoples and traditions.

How might Ruth's decision affect her understanding of other people and cultures?

Reading & Writing

- 1. READING: Setting** The setting of the story is the time and place of the action. The time may be past, present, or future. The place may be real or imaginary. With a partner, discuss the time and place of the story of Ruth and Naomi.
- 2. WRITING: Exposition** Imagine that you are Ruth. Write a letter to your great-grandson, King David of Israel. Explain to him what your homeland in Moab was like, why you chose to leave, and how your life changed when you moved to a new land.

MAIN IDEAS

- 1 **Belief Systems** The Hebrews believed in one God and tried to follow his commandments.
- 2 **Geography** Enslaved Hebrews returned from Egypt to Canaan to reclaim land.
- 3 **Government** Hebrew leaders called judges attempted to rule according to their understanding of God's laws.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Understanding Cause and Effect

A cause makes something happen. An effect is a result of a cause. Following causes and effects will help you understand the main ideas in this lesson. In Lesson 1, look for the effects of each event or cause listed in the chart. Record them on a chart like the one below.

Causes	Effects
Abraham leaves Ur.	
Moses leads people out of Egypt.	
Moses climbs Mount Sinai.	

 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R26



▲ Torah Case The Tik, or Torah case, shown above was made in Iraq in the early 20th century.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

shepherd a person who takes care of a group of sheep (page 325)

A group of sheep that a shepherd watches over is usually called a flock.

promise to pledge to do something (page 325)

Some people believe that God promised to give the land of Israel to the Jews.

fame great reputation; public esteem; renown (page 329)

Some people gained fame for military feats and some for intellectual feats.

The Origins of the Hebrews

TERMS & NAMES

Abraham

monotheism

Judaism

Moses

Exodus

Ten Commandments

Build on What You Know You have probably noticed that plants grow better in green, well-watered places. And you have learned how early cities developed in the Fertile Crescent. Within this region is an area that, partly because of its fertility, became the home of the Hebrews.

The Hebrew People in Canaan

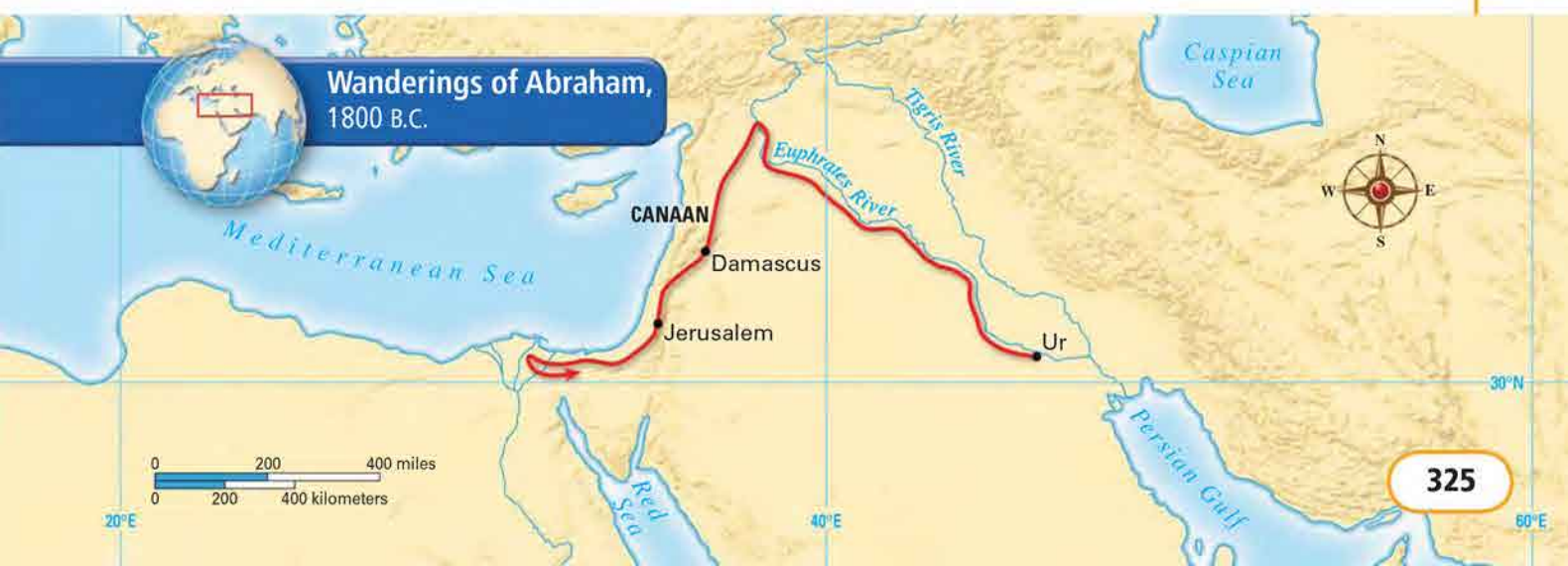
1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What is the central belief of the Hebrews?

The first five books of the Hebrew Bible are called the Torah (TAWR•uh). The Hebrews believed that these holy books, or scriptures, were given to them by God. The Torah gives the early history, laws, and beliefs of the Hebrews. It consists of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Later, there were Commentaries, or interpretations, written about the Torah.

Primary Source Handbook

See the excerpt from the Hebrew Bible: The Creation, page R45.

From Ur to Canaan A shepherd named **Abraham** was the father of the Hebrews. Abraham lived in Ur, a city in Mesopotamia, about 1800 B.C. According to the Torah, God told Abraham to leave Ur and go to Canaan (KAY•nuhn). Abraham believed that if he went to Canaan, the land would belong to his descendants because it was promised to them by God. Because of this, the Hebrews thought of Canaan as the Promised Land. With his family, Abraham settled in Canaan. (See map below.)





▲ **Abraham and Family** This painting shows Abraham and his family during their journey to Canaan.

Judaism and Monotheism Throughout the ancient world, people were polytheists (*poly* means “many” and *theos* means “god”). This means that they worshiped many gods. The Hebrews believed that God spoke to Abraham and gave him important teachings. Abraham taught the belief in one all-powerful God who established moral laws for humanity. This belief is called **monotheism** (*mono* means “one”). **Judaism** today is descended from the religion of the ancient Hebrews. The name comes from the tribe of Judah, one of the 12 tribes descended from Abraham.

According to the Torah, during troubled times the Hebrews held to their belief in God. They believed that a covenant (KUHV•uh•nuhnt), or a binding agreement, existed between God and Abraham and his descendants. They took courage from God’s pledge to give a homeland to Abraham’s descendants if they followed the laws of their faith and practiced righteousness and justice.

P Primary Source Handbook

See the excerpt from the Hebrew Bible: Noah and the Flood, page R46.

REVIEW How was Judaism different from other religions?

Canaan to Egypt and Back

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why did the Hebrews go to Egypt?

Over time, the Hebrews in Canaan took a new name—the Israelites. Their name came from Abraham’s grandson Jacob. According to the Torah, he was given the name *Israel*. Jacob had 12 sons. Ten of these sons and two grandsons were the fathers of the 12 tribes.

Moses Leads the Israelites The Torah tells of a terrible famine in Canaan. The starving Israelites went to Egypt, where Jacob's son Joseph served as top adviser to Egypt's pharaoh.

In time, a new pharaoh came to power. He enslaved the Israelites and forced them to work on his building projects. The Torah tells how **Moses** helped the Israelites leave Egypt. The migration of the Israelites from Egypt is known as the **Exodus**.

The Ten Commandments After leaving Egypt, the Israelites wandered in the Sinai desert for 40 years, living as nomads. According to the Torah, Moses climbed to the top of Mount Sinai, where God spoke to him. When Moses came down the mountain, he carried two stone tablets that contained the **Ten Commandments**. These commandments became the basis for the laws of the Israelites. The commandments later became an important part of the moral and ethical traditions of Western civilization.

Vocabulary Strategy

The word *exodus* comes from the Greek word *exodos*. It combines the **root** *hodos*, which means "way" or "journey," with the **prefix** *ex-*, which means "out."

Primary Source

Background: According to the Torah, the Ten Commandments are the ten laws given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. These orders serve as the basis for the moral laws of the Hebrews.



▲ Moses with tablets of Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments*

1. I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage: You shall have no other gods besides Me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image. . . .
3. You shall not swear falsely by the name of the Lord your God. . . .
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. . . .
5. Honor your father and your mother. . . .
6. You shall not murder.
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 [desire]. . . anything that is your neighbor's.

Exodus 20:2–14

* Christians word the commandments in ways slightly different from this Jewish version.

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTIONS

1. What are the first four commandments concerned with?
2. What do the last six commandments have in common that makes them different from the first four?

An Agreement Confirmed The Israelites believed that the giving of the commandments reaffirmed their covenant with God. They thought that God would protect them. The people, in turn, would obey his laws. They believed that God through his commandments had set down moral laws for all humanity.

REVIEW Who led the Israelites in their escape from slavery in Egypt?

Return to the Promised Land

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What role did the judges play in the life of the ancient Israelites?

By the time the Israelites returned to Canaan, many years had passed. The other groups who lived there were subject to powerful rulers who lived in walled cities. Moses picked Joshua to lead the people into Canaan.

The 12 Tribes of Israel The Israelites entering Canaan were organized into 12 tribes. Each tribe was named after one of Jacob's sons or grandsons. The men of these tribes became Joshua's troops. They formed a fighting force united by their goal of reclaiming the land from the city states. The first city to fall to the Israelites was Jericho. The movement to reclaim Canaan continued for 200 years.

Once the fighting ended, the Israelite soldiers became farmers and herders. The 12 tribes divided the land among themselves. Some received land in the mountains. Others settled on the plains. Tribes that lived near each other formed close ties, because they shared beliefs, problems, and enemies.

Judges Lead the Israelites

During the 200 years of war, no single powerful leader led the Israelites. Instead, they sought advice from many different

Judges This engraving portrays the judge Deborah. ▼



leaders called judges. These were highly respected men and women of the community.

The first judges acted as military leaders. Later judges gave advice on legal matters and helped settle conflicts. Judges such as Gideon, Samson, and Samuel gained fame throughout Canaan for their strength and wisdom. Deborah was one of the most famous judges. She inspired a small force of fighters to victory against a large Canaanite force near Mount Tabor.

The judges played a key role in keeping the 12 tribes united. When the Israelites lacked a strong judge as a leader, some tribes turned away from traditional religion. They made offerings to other gods. The judges spoke out against these practices.

REVIEW Who were some of the important judges of Israel?

Lesson Summary

- Abraham led the Hebrews to Canaan.
- Moses received the Ten Commandments from God.
- The judges led the Israelites in Canaan.

Why It Matters Now . . .

Judaism was the first monotheistic religion and influenced other world religions, particularly Christianity and Islam.

1 Lesson Review

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of

Abraham	Judaism	Exodus
monotheism	Moses	Ten Commandments

Using Your Notes

Understanding Cause and Effect Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

2. What was one effect of each of the following causes shown in the chart?

Causes	Effects
Abraham leaves Ur.	
Moses leads people out of Egypt.	
Moses climbs Mount Sinai.	



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Main Ideas

3. What religious beliefs made the Hebrews different from other ancient peoples?
4. What part did Moses play in the Exodus from Egypt?
5. Why did the return of the Hebrews to Canaan cause conflicts with other peoples living there?

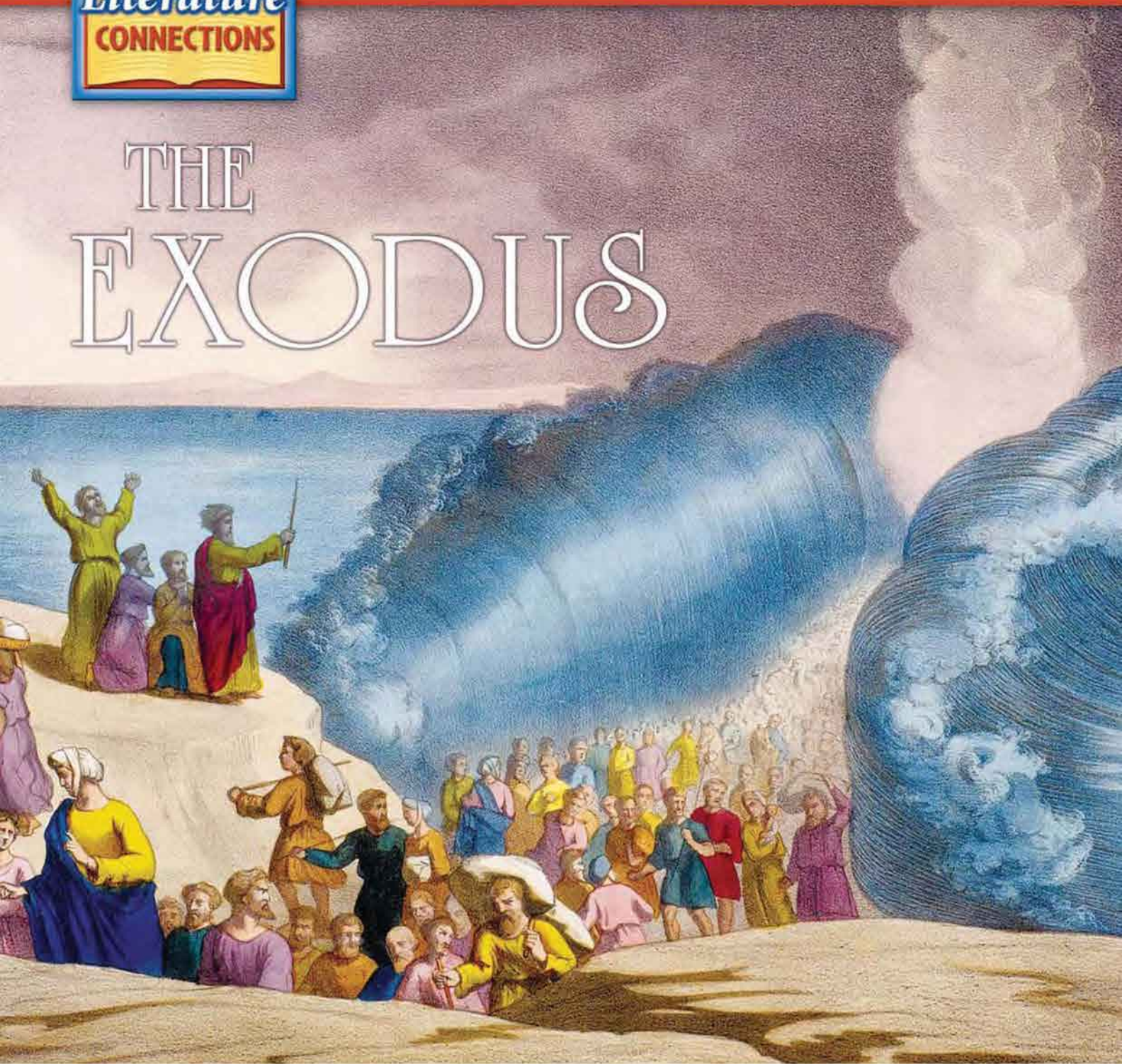
Critical Thinking

6. **Summarizing** What covenant between God and the Hebrews did the Hebrews believe the Ten Commandments reaffirmed?
7. **Drawing Conclusions** How did the Hebrew belief in a Promised Land affect their actions in Egypt and Canaan?

Activity

Making a Map Trace the map that shows the route of Abraham and his family out of Ur on page 325. Add to the map the geographic challenges they faced.

THE EXODUS



Background: According to the Torah, God commanded Moses to lead the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt. Moses went to the pharaoh and pleaded with him to let the Hebrew people go. After God sent a series of plagues, the pharaoh agreed. Then he changed his mind and led his troops to stop the Hebrews. The Exodus became an inspirational story to other people attempting to flee slavery, such as African Americans in the South before the Civil War. This version of the Exodus is taken from *The Children's Bible: The Old and New Testaments*.



▲ **Moses** This painting, titled *The Parting of the Red Sea*, shows Moses leading the Hebrews in their flight from Egypt.

Continuing their journey from Succoth, the Israelites camped at Etham, at the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to show them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day and night. He did not take away from the people the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night.

It was told to the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the hearts of Pharaoh and his servants were moved against the people, and they said: "Why have we done this, and let Israel free from serving us?"

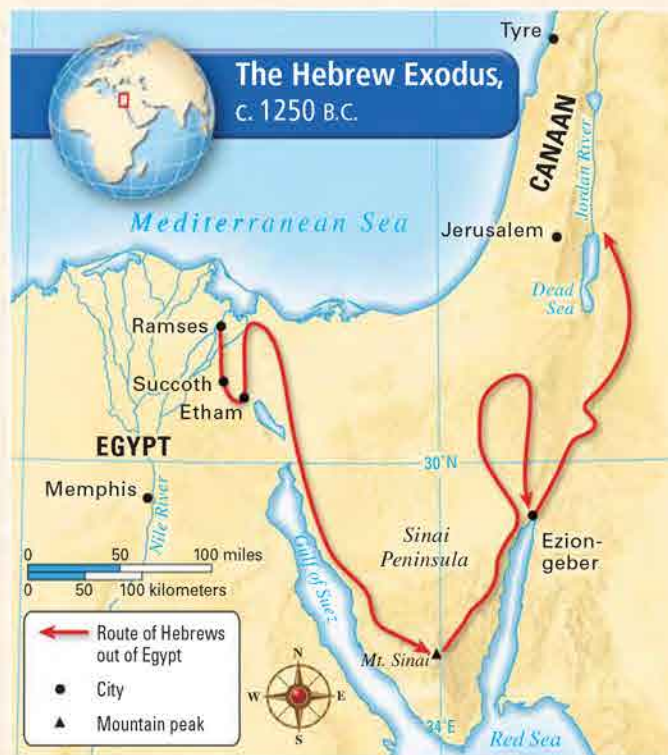
Then Pharaoh made ready his chariots and took his people with him. He took six hundred chosen chariots, of all the chariots of Egypt, and put captains over all of them.

The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and Pharaoh pursued the children of Israel, for the children of Israel had gone out proudly.

The Egyptians came after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping beside the sea, near Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.

When Pharaoh came near, the children of Israel looked up, and, seeing the Egyptians marching after them, they were very frightened. Then the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, and they said to Moses:

"Were there no graves in Egypt? Have you brought us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you treated us in this way, in bringing us out of Egypt? Did we not tell you in Egypt, 'Let us alone, so that we may serve the Egyptians?' For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."



REVIEW Why were the Israelites upset?

"Do not be afraid," said Moses to the people. "Stand still and watch the power of the Lord to save you, as he will show you today, for the Egyptians whom you have seen today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you if you will be calm."

And God said to Moses: "Why do you cry to me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. But you must lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry land through the middle of the sea."

"And you shall see that I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow you. Then I will show my power over Pharaoh and over all his armies, his chariots and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have shown my power."

Then the angel of God which went before the camp of Israel moved and went behind them. The pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and rose up behind them. It came between the camp of Israel and the camp of the Egyptians, but it gave light by night to Israel, so that the Egyptians did not come near Israel all that night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord caused the sea to go back by making a strong east wind blow all that night. It made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

The children of Israel walked into the middle of the sea upon the dry ground, and the waters were a wall on their right hand and on their left.

REVIEW What happened when Moses stretched his hand over the sea?

Exodus This depiction of Moses and the passage of the Red Sea is from a French illuminated manuscript, about 1250 A.D. ►



The Egyptians pursued them and went into the middle of the sea after them, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and his horsemen.

When morning came, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and the cloud, and troubled the forces of the Egyptians. He made the wheels fall off their chariots and made them drive heavily, so that the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the children of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."

Then God said to Moses: "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the waters may come together again and cover the Egyptians, their chariots and their horsemen."

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its bed when the morning appeared. The Egyptians fled before it, but the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the middle of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, and all the forces of Pharaoh that had followed him into the sea. Not one of them survived.

But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the middle of the sea, and the waters had formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hands of the Egyptians, and the Israelites saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

When Israel saw the great work the Lord did against the Egyptians, the people stood in awe of the Lord, and believed in him and his servant Moses.



▲ Chariot A pharaoh in his chariot hunts desert animals.

REVIEW Whom did the Israelites credit for the destruction of their enemies?

Reading & Writing

- 1. READING: Character** With a partner, discuss the character of Moses as it is revealed in his actions. Then make a list of words that describe his character.
- 2. WRITING: Narration** Write a dialogue between two soldiers in Pharaoh's army. Have them discuss their mission in pursuing the Hebrews.