Lesson 4: Hebrews, Phoenicians, and Lydians

Directions: Read the summary to reveal how Judaism became one of the first religions in the world to worship only one God. As you read, highlight/underline important details in each section that relate to that section’s title. Think about what you already know, what you want to know, and what you have learned after reading the summary.

Vocabulary

covenant an agreement
monotheism the worship of one God
slavery the practice of one person owning another
descendant a person who is born later into the same family
barter to exchange one kind of goods and services for another

The Hebrews (p. 55)
Abraham is considered to be the founder of Judaism. The Hebrew Bible says that God spoke to Abraham and told him to leave his homeland and go to a land called Canaan. According to the Hebrew Bible, God and Abraham made an agreement, or covenant, in about 1800 B.C. Abraham promised to worship only one God. In exchange, God promised to look after Abraham and his people—later known as the Hebrews. Monotheism is the worship of one God. Judaism was one of the first monotheistic religions. Later the Hebrews moved from Canaan to Egypt. The Egyptians forced them into slavery. Slavery is the practice of one person owning another person. According to the Hebrew Bible, God chose Moses to lead the Hebrews to freedom. The Hebrew Bible also states that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments guided people in how to worship. It also set down rules to help people live good lives. All of Abraham’s descendants, as well as people who were escaping from Egypt, were to follow the Ten Commandments.

Israel and Judah (p. 56)
The Hebrews in Canaan lived in about 12 different tribes. The tribes defeated the Canaanites sometime between 1200 B.C. and 1125 B.C. In about 1000 B.C., King David united the Hebrew tribes. He founded a kingdom called Israel. Its capital was Jerusalem. David’s son, Solomon, built a temple in Jerusalem to house the Torah and to be a place of worship. After Solomon’s death, the kingdom split into two. Israel was in the north. Judah was in the south.

Judaism Today (p. 57)
Today, millions of people practice Judaism. Jewish people still read the Torah. They celebrate Jewish holidays such as Passover. Passover honors the escape of the Hebrews from Egypt. Rabbis teach Jews how to read the Torah. In Hebrew, rabbi means “master” or “teacher.”

Phoenicians and Lydians (p. 58-59)
The Phoenicians lived along the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea during the time of King Solomon. They were great sailors and traders. Through trade, they linked various parts of the ancient world. New ideas as well as goods were exchanged through trade. The Phoenicians helped develop the modern alphabet. People during this time usually bartered, or exchanged one kind of goods and services for another. The Lydians invented the region’s first coins by 500 B.C. Coins made trading simpler and easier.
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**Directions:** Match each name or term to its description. Write the number of each name or term on the line provided. You will use your textbook and provide the page number where you found your answer.

- p. **55** 1. Abraham  
  ___ A. inventors of the first coins
- p. ____ 2. Hebrews  
  ___ B. chosen by God to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt
- p. ____ 3. Canaan  
  ___ C. new kingdom founded by King David
- p. ____ 4. Moses  
  ___ D. the split kingdom of Israel
- p. ____ 5. Ten Commandments  
  ___ E. where God sent Abraham
- p. ____ 6. Torah  
  ___ F. first five books of the Hebrew Bible
- p. ____ 7. Israel  
  ___ G. founder of Judaism
- p. ____ 8. Israel and Judah  
  ___ H. Abraham’s people
- p. ____ 9. Carthage  
  ___ I. the Phoenicians’ most important trading post
- p. ____ 10. Lydians  
  ___ J. set of laws given to Moses by God

**Directions:** Answer the following questions on the lines provided using complete sentences. You will use your textbook and provide the page number where you found your answer.

- p. ____ 11. How did the Phoenicians link many parts of the ancient world?
  
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- p. ____ 12. How are the Phoenician alphabet and cuneiform writing different?
  
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