Lesson 4: Hebrews, Phoenicians, and Lydians

Directions: Review the vocabulary terms in the box. Read the summary to reveal how Judaism became one of the first religions in the world to worship only one God. As you read, 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.

The Hebrew Bible (p. 56)
The Torah contains the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. These books provide guidance and laws for the Jewish people. They also contain historical information and stories important to Judaism. The Torah is considered too sacred to touch, so it is held by handles and a pointer (aka yad) is used to keep the place when reading.

Israel and Judah (p. 56-57)
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 most important trading post was located in Carthage in Northern Africa. The Phoenicians also developed the modern alphabet which consisted of 22 simple characters that stood for consonants. This new alphabet was simpler to use unlike cuneiform which consisted of over 700 symbols. 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/or summary (other side) to find your answers.

p. 55 1. Abraham  ____ A. inventors of the first coins
p. 55 2. Canaan  ____ B. chosen by God to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt
p. 55 3. Hebrews  ____ C. new kingdom founded by King David
p. 55 4. Moses  ____ D. the split kingdom of Israel
p. 55 5. Ten Commandments  ____ E. where God sent Abraham
p. 56 6. Torah  ____ F. first five books of the Hebrew Bible
p. 57 7. Israel  ____ G. founder of Judaism
p. 57 8. Israel and Judah  ____ H. Abraham’s people
p. 58 9. Carthage  ____ I. the Phoenicians’ most important trading post
p. 59 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. 58 11. How did the Phoenicians link (connect) many parts of the ancient world?

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p. 58-59 12. Compare/Contrast: How are the Phoenician alphabet and cuneiform writing different?

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