

# Chapter 3

## The Hebrew Kingdoms

# Section 1

## The Origins of the Hebrews

# The Hebrew People in Canaan

- Torah
  - First 5 books of Hebrew Bible
  - Given to Hebrews by God
  - Gives early history, laws, and beliefs of the Hebrews

# From Ur to Canaan

- Abraham chosen by God to be father of Hebrew people
  - Lived in Ur
  - Commanded by God to leave Ur & go to Canaan
    - Believed this land would belong to his descendants because it was promised by God
    - Hebrews thought of this as the Promised Land
- 1800 B.C. Abraham, his family and their herds made their *way to Canaan*

# Judaism & Monotheism

- Hebrews were monotheists
  - Believed in a single, all-powerful God
- Judaism
  - Descended from the religion of the ancient Hebrews
    - Named after the tribe of Judah (1 of 12 tribes descended from Abraham)
- Hebrews believed in a covenant (binding agreement) between God & Abraham
  - God would protect Abraham & descendant & give them a homeland

# Canaan to Egypt and Back

- Hebrews became the Israelites

# Moses lead the Israelites

- Famine in Canaan
- Israelites went to Egypt
  - At first given places of honor
  - Later enslaved and forced to work
- God commanded Moses to lead Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus)
  - Wandered Sinai Desert for 40 years
  - 10 commandments given to Moses

# An Agreement Confirmed

- Giving of commandments reaffirmed covenant w/ God
  - God would protect them
    - People would obey commandments



# Return to the Promised Land

- Joshua picked to lead Israelites back into Canaan
- The 12 Tribes of Israel
  - Israelites organized into 12 tribes
    - Formed fighting force united by a goal of reclaiming their land from the cities' rulers
    - Took 200 years for Israelites to win back Canaan
  - Soldiers became farmers & herders
  - 12 tribes divided land

# Judges Lead the Israelites

- During 200 years of war there was no single leader
  - Advice sought from judges (highly respected members of the community)
- 1<sup>st</sup> judges: military leaders
- Later judges: gave advice on legal matters & settled conflicts
- Judges played key role in keeping 12 tribes united



# Section 2

## Kingdoms & Captivity

# The Kingdom of Israel

- Monotheist views set them apart from others in region
  - Traded with & mixed with but did not adapt their culture or beliefs
- Sometimes threatened by other groups
  - Judges re-united tribes to fight during these times

# The Philistines

- Invaded & conquered Israelite territory in 1029 B.C.
- Israelites united under 1 king to fight
  - Many feared 1 king would have too much power
    - Judge Samuel shared concerns, but selected 1<sup>st</sup> two kings

# Saul & David

- Saul
  - 1<sup>st</sup> king
  - Respected military leader
  - Fought Philistines
    - Philistines loosened control over Israelites
- David
  - Chosen by Saul
  - Drove out Philistines
  - Won control of Jerusalem & made it his capital

# Solomon

- Son of David
- 3<sup>rd</sup> king of Israel
- Strong leader
- Israel became powerful nation under rule
  - Built trade ties & created new trade alliances
  - Building projects: Temple of Jerusalem

# The Kingdom Divides

- With threats of attack ending kingdom divided
- Israel & Judah
  - Solomon's Temple required high taxes
    - Son Rehoboam kept high taxes
    - Northern tribes refused to pledge loyalty until taxes lightened & labor on building projects lightened
      - Tribes of Judah & Benjamin remained loyal
  - Kingdom split into Israel & Judah



# Assyrians & Babylonians Take the land

- Assyrians forces Israel & Judah to pay tribute
  - Assyrians conquered Israel
    - Israel had weak army
  - Empire fell to Babylonians
- Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem
  - Judah's leaders resisted & Solomon's temple was destroyed
  - 1,000s of Jews taken captive to Babylon

# Jewish Exiles Return to Judah

- Jews exiles spent 50 years in Babylon (time known as Babylonian Captivity)
  - This is when Israelites became known as Jews

# Beliefs During the Babylonian Captivity

- During captivity Jews struggled to keep id
  - kept religious laws, holy days, & worship; helped keep spirits during captivity
  - Jews also looked forward to time of their own king
    - Waited for Messiah or heir to throne of David, a savior
- During difficult times Jews turned to prophets or spiritual leaders
  - Warned people who strayed from Jewish code of conduct

# The Temple is rebuilt

- 539 B.C.
  - Persians conquered Babylon
    - Cyrus set up policy of religious toleration
  - Cyrus freed Jews from captivity
    - Many returned to Judah
    - Rebuilt Jerusalem & the Temple of Solomon